NIAGARA NEWS

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Expansion at Maid of the Mist campus hikes fees for students in fall

By LAURA T. RICCIUTO
Staff Writer

The cost to be a student just got higher.

For the next five years Niagara College students will be committed to contributing an additional $20 each term to assist in raising $1 million for the Maid of the Mist Centre campus (MMC) in Niagara Falls.

"We've all agreed that the Maid of the Mist campus has been neglected or even ignored over the years, and now it's our turn," explained Glenn Murray, MMC Student Administrative Council president.

"Maid of the Mist has been left behind in the past, and this is our chance to catch up to the other campuses," added Murray, a second-year Hotel and Restaurant Management program student.

In a presentation to the board of governors on Feb. 22, the three Student Administrative Council (SAC) presidents gave their approval for increased student fees.

Martha Casson, the college's vice-president enterprise and student services, explained to the board the provincial government has established a protocol in which SAC has to give its approval to any fee increases other than those involving tuition.

Starting in September 2001, students will be facing a $20 increase to the Student Technology Enhancement Committee (STEC) fee, raising it to $82 each term.

Murray admits the first time the college proposed the increase he, too, thought, "Wow, ouch! That's a really big chunk," but says he doesn't think the majority of students "except the astute ones" will even notice the increase.

"I only read the bottom line. I never looked to see where all my money was going."

Since Continuing Education students will also be reaping the benefits of increased technology, a pro-rated fee will be applied to them.

The Student Services Fee will be raised from $22.50 to $23.75, an increase of $1.25 and the SAC fee will be raised by $1 each term.

The funds from the STEC fee increase will be used to "keep Niagara on the technical highway," explained Ryan McLaughlin, SAC president of the Welland campus.

For the next five years the MMC will be receiving the revenue of the STEC increase, which over the agreement's term will raise an estimated $1.25 million.

Murray says the STEC money will be used to purchase computers, photocopiers, scanners or other technological equipment needed by the campus.

"It's important for us to get into the technological side of learning," commented Murray in a telephone interview.

With the expansion of the MMC planned to be completed for the Fall 2002 term, Murray chuckled and said, "Soon students will be able to do everything here that they could do at the other campuses . . . except get drunk."

The MMC will not have an on-campus pub, but will have the facilities available to hold Comedy Night and other SAC activities, explained Murray.

Students exchanged cultural cuisines at Niagara College's International Day at the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls. Alison Imre, 24, a Tourism (Co-op) program student from Niagara Falls, samples a Chinese spiced chicken dish, served by Qinyi Ji, 20, a Hotel and Restaurant Management (Co-op) program student from Shanghai, China.

Photo by Laura T. Ricciuto

Men's volleyball team defeated by Okanagan at CCAA nationals

By JOËL D. HERRINGTON
Staff Writer

Last Saturday night at Okanagan University College in British Columbia, Ontario's No. 1 college volleyball team, the Niagara Knights, just barely eluded a national medal.

In the bronze medal match against the tournament's host team, the Knights were unable to capture the medal. In four games, head coach Blair Cudmore and his Knights were defeated by Okanagan for the second time in the Canadian Colleges Athletic Association (CCAA) tournament.

In the first round of action on Thursday, Niagara, who was ranked No. 3 coming into the nationals, challenged the No. 6 Lakers. Although the scores were close, the Knights were certainly upset. Okanagan beat the Knights in four games out of five. The scores were 25-20, 25-18, 21-25 and 25-15, in favour of the hosts. Twenty-year-old rightside Graeme Gaunt was named player of the game for Niagara.

Obviously, captain Josh Gunnell, 22, says he and the team are disappointed with the results of the tournament. The Knights came into the tournament on a high note. They had recently captured their second consecutive provincial title and were looking to have the same success at the nationals.

However, Gunnell and the Knights do have another promising season to look forward to next fall. Most of the team's members will be returning for at least another year. Middle/power Bill Lang, setter/power Cory Lahey and defensive specialist/libero Cuneyt Akgol have played their final matches in varsity volleyball.

Before entering their first match versus Okanagan, the Knights watched videotapes of their opponents. By doing so, they were able

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The Pride of Niagara College is back in the Blue and White and it's stronger than ever.

To all the Niagara Knights players, coaches, coaching staff, and fans . . . thanks for another great season!!!

Congratulations to the over 150 student varsity athletes who represented Niagara College on the playing field throughout the province and nation during the 2000/01 Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) Intercollegiate season. You can all be proud of your individual and team accomplishments.

Pride of Niagara College

An extra "hurrah" goes out to the Men's Volleyball team, who won their second consecutive Western Region and Provincial Championships. At the Canadian Championships held in British Columbia March 8 - 10, 2001, the team once again finished 4th in the nation out of 49 teams.

Player Graeme Gaunt finished 3rd in scoring, and was named a Canadian Colleges Athletic Association first-team All Star and the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association MVP. Good luck to player Shawn Barbisan, who has been identified for the National B team and invited to join their camp in July 2001.

from . . . the Niagara College Athletics Department on behalf of the entire staff, student community, and the "Student Administrative Council" of Niagara College.

APPLAUDING WOMEN

March time for reflecting on women's issues

By CRYSTAL LANGILLE
Staff Writer

Since the early days, International Women's Month has increasingly become "a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of women's rights," states the United Nation's Web site.

March 8 was International Women's Day (IWD), an occasion marked by women's groups around the world.

It's the "story of ordinary women as makers of history; it is rooted in the centuries-old struggle of women to participate in society on an equal footing with men."

The call for change and equality has echoed throughout the ages.

In ancient Greece, Lysistrata initiated a sexual strike against men in order to end war.

During the French Revolution, Parisian women calling for liberty, equality and fraternity marched on Versailles to demand women's suffrage.

The first National Woman's Day was observed across the United States on Feb. 28, 1909.

In 1910, the International Socialists, made up of over 100 women from 17 countries, met in Copenhagen and established a Women's Day "to honour the movement for women's rights and to assist in achieving universal suffrage for women."

No fixed date was selected for the observance.

In 1911, March 19 was celebrated as IWD in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland where more than one million women and men attended rallies.

They demanded the right to vote and to hold public office. They demanded the right to work, the right to vocational training and the end to discrimination on the job.

Shortly before the First World War, as part of the peace movement, Russian women observed their first Women's Day on the last Sunday in February 1913.

The following year, European women held rallies to protest war or to express solidarity with their sisters.

In 1917, with two million Russian soldiers dead in the war, Russian women went on strike for "bread and peace" on the last Sunday in February.

Despite political opposition, the women continued to strike. Czar Nicholas II was forced to give up power, and the provisional government granted women the right to vote.

That Sunday fell on Feb. 23 on the Julian calendar, then in use in Russia, but on March 8, on the Gregorian calendar, in use elsewhere.

The Development and Human Rights section of the department of public information for the United Nations states that few causes promoted by the United Nations have generated more intense and widespread support than the equal rights of women.

The Charter of the United Nations, signed in San Francisco in 1945, was the first international agreement to proclaim gender equality as a fundamental human right.

With the resurgence of feminism in the late 1960s came a renewed interest in International Women's Day. Feminists celebrated women's lives and work and began promoting March 8 again.

The holiday was revitalized in countries where it had been traditionally celebrated and inspired new interest in many countries where the holiday had previously not been observed.

In 1981, the National Women's History Project led the rally for a National Women's History Week. That year, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution declaring the week of March 8 National Women's History Week.

In 1987, as a result of popular demand, the week was expanded to the entire month, making March National Women's Month.

The theme for March this year is Celebrating Women of Courage and Vision.

The National Women's History Project chose six women this year to be honoured.

LaDonna Harris, born in 1931, is the president and founder for Americans for Indian Opportunity. She has crusaded for the rights of children and women, and for the elimination of poverty and discrimination.

Physicist Shirley Jackson, born in 1946, is the former head of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission. She is the first female African-American to receive a doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Maya Lin, born in 1960, is the designer of two of America's most powerful monuments: The Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, Ala., and the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. She is the most acclaimed site-specific architect in America.

Ellen Ochoa, born in 1958, is the first Hispanic woman to be named as an astronaut. She flew her first shuttle mission in 1993, as a mission specialist with the Discovery crew.

Esther Peterson was born in 1906 and died in 1997. She was a consumer advocate and labour activist. She dedicated her life to consumer protection, improved labour conditions and equal opportunity for women.

Lilian Smith, author and civil rights advocate, was born in 1897 and died in 1966. She had one of the strongest voices in exposing the vicious ways that racism destroys the human spirit. She used her writing talent and upper-class privilege to challenge racism.

In Ottawa, Canada celebrated International Women's Week from March 4 to March 10. The theme was Canadian Women: Raising Our Diverse Voices for Positive Change.

Status of Women Canada's Web site states that March 8 is a date that "acknowledges the influence of Canadian women to effect positive change in various aspects of life on the local, regional, national and international scenes."

Hedy Fry, secretary of state of Multiculturalism and the Status of Women, was quoted as saying, "We have an ideal opportunity to look back at the last decade of feminism to measure the gains that women have made, to look forward and get concrete measurable objectives for the long way that we have yet to go."

She adds, "Women have been made more aware of the gross inequities that still dramatically affect our sisters around the world and of our responsibility to join our voices to their cry."

Today, a central organizing principal of the work of the United Nations is that "no enduring solution to society's most threatening social, economic and political problems can be found without the full participation and the full empowerment of the world's women."

Although the status of women has improved dramatically over the last century, one look at the evening news should demand the undeniable need for more change to come.

For more information, visit Status of Women Canada at www.swc-cfc.gc.ca or National Women's History Project at www.nwhp.org.

Graduate helps disabled individuals with activities

'Natural caregiver' finds it rewarding helping physically challenged

By RACHEL MONTOUR
Staff Writer

She helps the physically challenged meet their needs. Deanna Zeltner, 32, of Port Colborne, an attendant for the March of Dimes, is also a registered practical nurse (RPN). She says she has worked for the March of Dimes for almost six years. "We help our consumers with their activities of daily living."

> *'We . . . allow them to live life as they wish to live it, without the obstacles.'*
> *— Deanna Zeltner*

"I went to Niagara College for my nursing. At first, I was a health care aide but I then upgraded to my RPN."

"I got my nursing (diploma) in 1994 at the Mack Centre, which was Niagara College, but it was next to St. Catharines General Hospital." She says that's where she attended classes.

She chose her nursing career because she says she is "a natural caregiver. It's just very easy to me. It's very rewarding. It's something that I enjoy doing all the time anyway, helping others, even people that aren't consumers."

"We work on our own when we go into homes to help them (consumers) with their activities of daily living (and) to allow them to live life as they wish to live it, without the obstacles."

March of Dimes attendant Deanna Zeltner helps disabled individuals.
Photo by Rachel Montour

This is called outreach. She says she finds this helpful to the consumer. "It allows them to be independent and do their activities of daily living. It allows them not to be disabled, so to speak."

Defining her job at the college, she says it is her responsibility "to help the physically disabled achieve their activities of daily living, one of which is education."

Zeltner is married and has four children. "I love to read and I love to write. I love to sing."

She says her favourite books are by Mary Higgins Clark. "I like mysteries. I like true-life crime." She also enjoys children's books, her favourite one to read to her children being Winnie the Pooh.

Tessa Noyes, 27, of Welland, is a service delivery worker for the March of Dimes.

Noyes says, "We assist individuals with long-term physical disabilities. We try to offer independence as well as providing consumer support they may need."

The March of Dimes, founded in 1951, is a non-profit organization originally established by mothers of children with polio. They held marches to raise money for scientific research to find and fund a cure for polio, thus the "march of dimes."

"The job of the attendant at the school is to provide the consumer help in setting up and assistance in getting from class to class."

Asked if the consumer has to be registered for the services, she says, "They have to be referred. They have to be assessed and an assessment would be done. The application would go to an admissions advisory committee. Based on the funding and need, the consumer would be approved."

> *'We assist individuals with long-term physical disabilities. We try to offer independence as well as providing consumer support they may need.'*
> *— Tessa Noyes*

A service agreement is signed between the consumer and the March of Dimes. Depending on the money and needs of the consumer, "a higher-need consumer would be approved as a priority consumer.

"The bulk of the money comes from the (Ontario) Ministry of Health and fund-raisers."

"March of Dimes would graciously accept donations from the community. We do provide tax receipts."

If you would like to make a donation, call or stop by March of Dimes South Region, 3300 Merritville Hwy., Thorold, Ont. L2V 4Y6, call 905-687-8484 or go online at www.dimes.on.ca.

REPRESENTING NIAGARA

Helping Niagara from other side of the world

By CALUM McNEIL
Staff Writer

President Dan Patterson flew around the world for Niagara College.

He travelled to China as a member of the Team Canada trade mission recently to promote the college in the world's most populous nation.

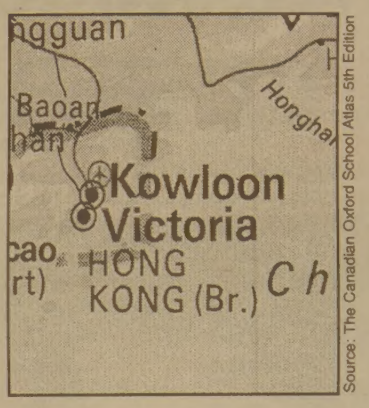
"The purpose of the trade mission was to promote Niagara College and increase student recruitment and the college's educational training to China," explains Patterson.

"There are 1.3 billion people in China and a large proportion of them require post-secondary education," says Patterson. "China lacks enough post-secondary institutions to meet the demands of its growing economy. The demand for higher education far outweighs the domestic supply."

Patterson says it is this lack of adequate educational facilities that is providing Niagara College with a huge and potentially lucrative opportunity.

Patterson signed two agreements during his 10-day stay in China.

The first was with Shanghai Commercial School and the second with Shanghai Commercial Polytechnic. The agreements will make available courses in computer programming, international business administration and tourism to students attending those schools in China. The courses will be taught in English and revenues will be split between Niagara and the Chinese schools.



Patterson reveals he made a number of contacts and gained a number of leads for the college.

The president met with the parents of students attending the college and had a chance to talk with some Niagara alumni.

"I met Eugene Wu and Lei Rao while I was in Suzhou," smiles Patterson. Wu is a graduate of the college's International Business Program and Rao is a General Arts and Sciences grad.

Patterson attended a banquet held for the Team Canada mission at the Great Hall by the Forbidden City in Beijing. The banquet was attended by 2,700 people including the Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien. "All the members of the mission were called up by province to shake hands," says Patterson, "I talked to Chrétien briefly."

The president says he was "pleased" to be on the mission, explaining "We have a world-class college system and it's good we are exporting our educational products and services."

Patterson says he didn't have much time for seeing the sights, but he did visit the Great Wall in what he calls "a spectacular moment."

The president says he does not anticipate there will be other trips to China, "The International Department will do follow-ups."

Editor's Note: Please see related pictures on page 24.

MP carries students' concerns to Parliament Hill

By JENNIFER CHORNLEY
Staff Writer

"I always felt an obligation, whenever given the opportunity, to come back and speak to students about politics because I went into school later on in my life and I always felt a bond there."

Tony Tirabassi, 43, is the new Member of Parliament (MP) for the Niagara Centre constituency, and he had an opportunity to return to Niagara College and fulfil his "obligation" to talk to 35 second-year Journalism-Print students at Niagara College on March 6.

This is Tirabassi's first visit to the college in 25 years. "I am sure glad to be here." Since he is a new MP on Parliament Hill, Tirabassi is adding to his knowledge of the issues.

At the college, a variety of issues was discussed during the one-hour session including Quebec separatism, student loans, the media and immigration.

To a quick question on why the various levels of government are spending money for the 2008 Olympic bid when students say, "We (Canada) have bigger problems," the students in the Reporting and News Writing course agreed with Tirabassi's response that the "priorities are in the wrong place."

The issues Tirabassi has become involved with in Ottawa include transportation and the Parliamentary House Affairs committee.

Since he was born and raised in Thorold, one issue close to home is "transport. (The) Welland Canal, industry along the canal, how we mix the new economy with traditional industry."

With the merger between Canadian Pacific and Canadian National Railways, Tirabassi says, "I hope to be part of that. I want to be part of the new economy. I want to preserve that future viability."

On the airline industry, Tirabassi says the merger of Canadian Airlines and Air Canada is definite, but there are some "loose ends" that have to be tied up.

The local issues Tirabassi would like to sort out include housing, child development, transit infrastructure, Brock University and Niagara College. "It's endless." He would like to deal with "everything and anything, but that's where I have to be careful."

He is a member of the Parliamentary House Affairs committee, and would like to deal with improving Question Period, "the theatrics" as Tirabassi calls it.

He says there is no need for the personal comments in Question Period adding, "I am not really proud of how we behave in there."

Tirabassi says it's one thing to "be passionately involved with an issue, to work on an issue." If an MP in opposition puts the MP down or debates the issue that's one thing, but to hit the personal level is another issue. "I don't know how it comes out of their mouths."

> ***. . . it's one thing to 'be passionately involved with an issue . . .' but to hit the personal level is another issue.***

Tirabassi says Question Period can improve and the "best way is to lead is by example."

The committee works to get private members' bills on the floor of the House of Commons, to be debated and voted on, as well as to manage the procedures of the House of Commons.

When dealing with issues, Tirabassi says it's "always about serving the people" either as a city councillor or as MP, whether it's 19,000, the population for Thorold, or 104,000, the population of the Niagara Centre constituency.

Questioned if it is best to focus on one or two key areas instead of being an expert on everything, Tirabassi says, "Absolutely."

"It's best to focus on one issue at one time, the issue affecting one person."

If a person comes into the constituency office concerned about the Old Age pension, "that's one person, one issue," he says, but if someone is made out to be the next author of the budget for Canada, "you lost your focus."

On the question of whether Prime Minister Jean Chrétien should resign, Tirabassi says, "He's the boss and returned to a third majority government. Canadians returned him, and if I were Mr. Chrétien, I would point that out, and he has. It's his prerogative when he wants to go."

"It's a full mandate, four years. I expect a change by the time the next election comes around."

Not only is Paul Martin, finance minister, seeking the leadership, but eight or nine other people are looking towards a leadership possibility as well, Tirabassi adds.

He points out that Martin is 63. When a possible leadership call is taken, Martin will be 65. Another election would be called a year later. If Martin is re-elected and serves the full mandate he will be 70, so, in the end, "his 10 years might be very short."

Adding to the leadership conversation, Tirabassi says newly announced leader of the Parti Quebecois, the federal separatist party, Bernard Landry "is more hard-lined than (Lucien) Bouchard." Tirabassi clearly states he doesn't want a third referendum.

Tirabassi points out there were enough times when the proposition was rejected by voters. A referendum "tears the fabric of Canada," and Tirabassi feels it is just an elitist group in Quebec wanting national status.

Niagara Centre MP Tony Tirabassi responds to the second-year Journalism-Print students voicing concerns regarding issues such as student loans and Quebec separation on March 6.

Photo by Jennifer Chornley

Tirabassi also discussed his brushes with the media. He relayed in the session that he was part of *Frank Magazine's* scheme to see "how fast he could see the prime minister." A reporter from the magazine called to say that Chrétien wanted to speak to him, but Tirabassi's secretary figured that if the Prime Minister wanted to speak to him, a note would have been passed during Parliament. All the same, he didn't fall for it.

Tirabassi says his favourite building in Ottawa is the National Press Building across the street from Parliament Hill. He describes the five-storey building as being strewn with newsprint. "It blew me away. I didn't realize we were still in that age anymore" despite electronic technology's prevalence.

Tirabassi became MP for Niagara Centre on Nov. 27.

He worked for 23 years at IGA, a grocery store in Thorold. He began as a stock clerk and worked his way up the ranks to produce manager, produce supervisor and produce buyer.

He had an interest when he was younger in public speaking and debating. His family always talked about politics around the kitchen table and he credits this experience in helping him become part of the political process.

Tirabassi began his career in politics in 1982, when he became the first person to join the Thorold city council at age 24. "I was the youngest (person) that has ever been elected in that municipality."

CRIME WATCH

Campus Watch gives students valuable skills

By AARON YZERMAN
Staff Writer

Keeping the college safe and learning in the process are all part of the job for students on Niagara College's Campus Watch.

"The campus is a community within a community, and we attract a lot of people here – students, night students, faculty. The potential for problems exists here as they would any place else," says Gino Arcaro, co-ordinator of the Law and Security Administration (LASA) program and Police Foundations program at Niagara College's Welland campus.

First-year students in both programs must complete 16 hours of Campus Watch time, done on Monday to Thursday from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., as part of their curriculum.

"Our students do Campus Watch on a volunteer basis, not only as part of the curriculum, but to learn the following things – prevention is the most important thing in any kind of law enforcement. Consequently, if we can go semester after semester with nothing happening, these students are learning a tremendous amount. It teaches people that all the so-called excitement that they see on TV in law enforcement means that crime wasn't really prevented, somebody had to suffer, and that's a message. That's a message we send out here, in this program," explained Arcaro.

"I include that in every preface in every book I write, so students can read that first and foremost. It makes them think. I'm glad I've had a number of students comment to me that they've read that and never thought of it before. You're excited? Wrong. It's wrong to think like that. Excitement means somebody is suffering."

The Campus Watch system, which was introduced to Niagara College six years ago, was put in place to ensure safety and patrol the campus.

"They work with the campus security to learn and provide the elimination of risks. It's been an extreme success. We believe that we've fulfilled all our objectives," says Arcaro.

"By fulfilling that objective, we're ensuring the safety of the guests, students, people who work here, and the interaction that's needed to accomplish that."

"It develops skills of what to watch for, observation skills. It gives us knowledge of what security feels like," says first-year LASA program student Bill Thomas, 19, of Fort Erie. "It is helping to give us a look at what you have to do in security. That aspect of it is assisting us."

Arcaro explained that even with the growing popularity of rave parties and designer drugs on campuses over the past few years, campus policing is essentially the same as it has been in the past. "Every time we read or hear about a new type of drug, or a new behaviour, I think that, historically, there always has been a new 'something.' I don't think it's any different than any other decade or any other generation. I think there's always going to be a new trend or popularity, but it all focuses on the same generation. Just as an example, (in the) '60s and '70s there was one type of problem, (and in the) '80s and '90s there was another type of problem. The common denominator is, it's all the same problem. The names change, of the substances, but it's always there."

"It's been clear in North America that academic institutions have been the scenes of violence, maybe more so in the past. As we've seen in North America, the type of violence has, in certain isolated incidents, been worse. In addition, there's obvious greater media attention.

First-year Law and Security Administration program students Marcus Henderson (left) and Bill Thomas on Campus Watch at the Welland campus.

Photo by Aaron Yzerman

"There's always been, you know, some degree of crime, whether it's high school, or whether it's college or universities. There have always been incidents. I don't think it's young people (in particular), I really don't. I think it's people (in general). People take out their problems in different ways, that's what I think," says Arcaro.

"I have always believed that there isn't really a trend. I've always believed that there is the potential," Arcaro said. "Law enforcement has taught me that the possibility of crime is any place and at any time. Many people think it may never happen at a certain place or to certain people. What I've learned is the potential is there, anywhere. If you really stop and think about it, it's probably always been there. Any time you get a large group of people in any particular place, there's always potential for some kind of violence or thefts. There's always that possibility."

"I think it's good to do it, because it's stuff you'll have to do later," says Marcus Henderson, 18, of Port Colborne, a first-year LASA program student. "It's preparation."

Arcaro said that though some students may find doing Campus Watch uneventful, the less that happens while students are keeping an eye on the campus, the better.

"Sometimes students say that it's boring, nothing happens. That's good, they've done their job. People think policing is exciting, you know? The lights, the sirens, go to all these heavy calls, you know? When you stop and think about it, somebody's got to suffer for that. To me, prevention is the objective of law enforcement."

Proposed law to stop organized crime sparks controversy

By LAURA T. RICCIUTO
Staff Writer

The Ontario government is proposing legislation to "crackdown" on organized crime, despite the possibility of its being labeled "unconstitutional."

On Dec. 5, 2000, Ontario's Progressive Conservatives tabled the legislation entitled Remedies for Organized Crime and Other Unlawful Activities Act 2000, known as Bill 155.

According to a press release issued at the time, if passed, the legislation "would help Ontario to take out unlawful activity, disrupt and disable corrupt organizations and prevent victimization."

Prior to the launch of the proposal, former attorney general Jim Flaherty and Solicitor General David Tsubouchi released a report on Nov. 27 entitled Taking the Profits Out of Crime: Lessons Learned.

Prompting the report was an international summit held in Toronto in late August that gathered speakers from Canada, the United States, England, Wales, Ireland and South Africa.

"We learned that Canada is considered to be a safe haven for organized crime," said Flaherty. "We also learned that countries facing similar threats have developed initiative civil legislation to go after the profits and assets of corrupt organizations."

It was in this report that the government announced its intentions to "introduce legislation that will enable the province to ask the courts for permission to seize illegal profits and help victims."

Since the government introduced Bill 155, the first of its kind in Canada, it has triggered national debate, sparking controversy from people in all walks of life.

Those in opposition range from lawyers to criminals to columnists to motorcycle bikers and even a "Mafia wife."

Under the Civil Asset Forfeiture provisions of Bill 155, the province could use civil law to ask the courts to freeze, seize or forfeit to the Crown "proceeds of unlawful activity" and "instruments of unlawful activity." These properties are described as those "likely to be used in the commission of an offence."

On a Politics Canada Web site, one registered user writes, "We are fast approaching a police state under dictatorial rule."

Another describes the legislation as "broad, sweeping and capable of government corruption and abuse at several levels."

The unidentified writer then explains the proposed law would "violate our most long-lived guarantee of property rights in Canada: the Magna Carta," adding, if Bill 155 becomes law, it would be "unconstitutional."

A Belleville, Ont., lawyer describes the proposed legislation as "promises to merely cloak the symptoms but not cure the underlying disease."

Karen Selick backs up her statement that appeared in *The Globe and Mail* on Jan. 10, by explaining, "Criminals can hardly be expected to give up their lucrative occupations for new careers in taxi-driving when there's still a raging demand for illegal products they've been providing."

Selick concludes by assuring us that criminals "will simply carry on with business, turning some of their energies into preventing the diversion of their profits."

More recently, on Feb. 21, Ontario's Standing Committee on Justice and Social Policy heard public submissions about the controversial Bill 155, at Queen's Park in Toronto.

A news report filed with the Canadian Press states the committee to have been "surprised" when Hamilton woman Judy MacDonald, scheduled to make an address, turned out to be Judy MacDonald Musitano, the wife of an area mobster.

Judy, who married Tony Musitano five years ago, began by telling the committee, "I am told that I am a Mafia wife," later adding that despite her husband's criminal record she is not "guilty by association."

Tony Musitano was convicted in 1983 for bombing a number of businesses in Hamilton during the 1970s.

While Musitano was serving his 15-year prison sentence he orchestrated the murder of Toronto mobster Dominic Rocco. He pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit murder and in 1990 he was granted full parole.

Judy continued to plead with the committee saying, "It is . . . apparent that my choice of mate has jeopardized my privilege to be judged and respected on my own right," adding "I have no protection from being victimized from this legislation. I would receive no recovery from losing my reputation, business or livelihood."

The Musitano couple work together in operating Judy's dry cleaning business.

Niagara Regional Police Chief Gary Nicholls also made an address to the committee on Bill 155.

Nicholls, who supports the proposed legislation, stated, "The Niagara region provides unique opportunities and fertile ground for the continued advancement of organized crime."

The chief of police describes the bill as providing "another tool" in dealing with organized crime.

"It allows for the opportunity to go through the civil process instead of the criminal process, where the burden of proof is lessened, to go after the assets and profits that are gained through organized crime," Nicholls explained to reporters, following a police services board meeting.

In a government press release issued in late February, the province's new Attorney General David Young announced, "Ontario is open for business, but not for the business of organized crime. Our proposed bill would provide new and innovative tools to fight corrupt organizations."

POLICING

Police Foundations student hired in Durham at age 19

By AARON YZERMAN
Staff Writer

While most officers are hired to police forces in their mid-20s, Jason Boccinfuso is set to enter the world of law enforcement at the age of 19.

"I look forward to the problem-solving aspect of the job. That's really appealing to me," says Boccinfuso, a second-year Police Foundations (PF) program student and Student Administrative Council vice-president. The Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS) recently hired the 19-year-old. "I look forward to searching for causes of the problem and attacking the problem at its roots."

Boccinfuso will be sworn in as an officer with the DRPS when he completes his training at Ontario Police College in Aylmer, Ont., where all cadets go to confirm their status with a police force. He will start his police college training on May 2 and will complete it at the end of July. When that is successfully done, Boccinfuso will receive official status as a police constable with the DRPS.

"It should be a lot of fun, a lot of challenges, and I want to learn. I'm eager to," he says.

"As far as the legal aspect (goes), I feel I should be very well prepared," says the Oshawa native on his preparation at Niagara College. "Here, they really prepare you for the legal aspects of the job, as well as potential dangers to look out for."

"It's very effective. The staff here, they're really exceptional – Gino Arcaro, Mick Riddle, Jim Drury, Jan Potton, Karen Moreau-Petti, Sandy Cornett — those are just phenomenal teachers," he explained. "It comes together nicely and they really work hard at trying to reach a degree of excellence. All of the teachers are experts in their field," says Boccinfuso.

"He's an interesting guy," says Gino Arcaro, co-ordinator of the PF program and the Law and Security Administration (LASA) program at Niagara College. "Jason's got an extensive résumé. He's done extensive volunteer work. He has a wide range of experience, and that's a big factor in why he got hired so young. This hiring is unique because of his age — 19."

"I put a lot of hard work into it. I worked really hard at the school for the past two years," says Boccinfuso. "The hard work paid off."

"It has definitely happened before in the past," says Arcaro, on the subject of students being hired while in college, "but (it) still represents a small percentage of hirings. The greatest number of hirings happens after graduation, but there's been a number of people who have been hired throughout the years, both in (the) LASA (program) and (the) PF (program)."

Arcaro explained the advantages of being hired at a young age, drawing on his own experiences. He was hired as a police officer with the Niagara Regional Police Service. "In the '70s, a large percentage of officers were hired at young ages. Myself and several of my colleagues were hired when we were 18. A number of us, myself included, saw a great benefit to that," he says. "The first one to two years, we held the rank of cadet, which is the lowest rank in a police force. The learning experience was invaluable. You couldn't try to explain the learning experience."

"Many of us benefitted from that at a very young age and developed those qualities because the cadet program allowed you to observe experienced officers in a wide range of settings. After about a year or a year and a half as cadet, we were sent to enter a police college. Most of us, including myself, felt that we were more than adequately prepared to succeed academically in a very intense course that Ontario Police College requires every police officer to pass," explained Arcaro.

"Additionally, being hired at a young age, we were socialized into the police occupation. The key thing is observation – through the observation of other people. The observation, made at a young age, is a unique form of experience that helps you form very essential personal qualities that are needed to succeed in policing, such as common sense, analytical thinking, decision making and problem solving under very stressful situations," he says. "Therefore, for a 19-year-old to be hired is quite an accomplishment, to be able to acquire those characteristics at a young age."

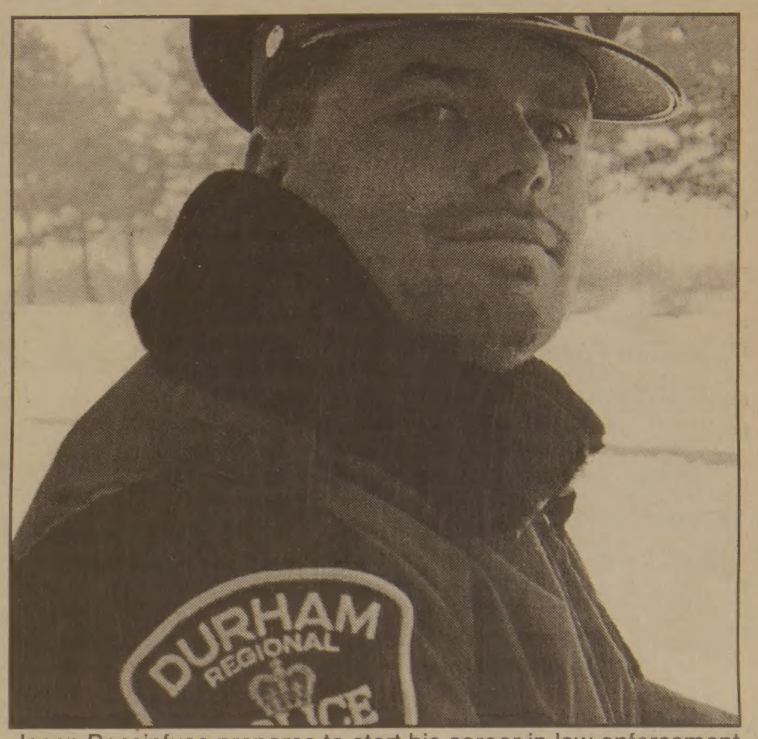
"It's more than possible to get hired at a young age. It's more than possible," explains Arcaro. "Because I was hired at a young age, at 18, I can relate to these people, that they're going to learn a tremendous amount through policing in their transition to adulthood, which I think is a huge benefit. That can serve as a big advantage to these young people, by being hired young," he says.

Boccinfuso says he is looking forward to the challenges of preventing crime before it happens. "You have a problem, like a domestic dispute, and instead of simply just going and making an arrest and going on your way, looking at the cause of it as a social problem. It's proactive policing, as opposed to reactive," he says. "Also looking at long-term solutions is another big one. Social problems and searching for long-term solutions to problems."

Arcaro explained what he feels is necessary for potential police officers to be successful in their field. "In this current cycle, the average age is about 25 or 26 that (people) are being hired. One of the reasons is they're looking for combined academic and work experience to help develop those personal characteristics," he says . "A big factor is volunteer work combined with academic performance, combined with work experience.

"Volunteer work, I believe, is misinterpreted. People shouldn't look at volunteer work as just a thing to do to get hired. Volunteer work teaches you a lot of things — it provides a service to others without getting paid. It moves a person from a self-centredness to an awareness of others in the community, which is very essential in policing."

Though he has been hired by a police force, Boccinfuso says he plans on continuing education because he is interested in learning more through additional programs. "My education isn't finished just because I got hired. I still have a commitment to learning. The more I learn here, the better prepared I'll be as a police officer. We're being taught what I'm going to do as a career, so what better place to learn?"



Jason Boccinfuso prepares to start his career in law enforcement with the Durham Regional Police Service.

Photo by Aaron Yzerman

"In my experience," says Arcaro, "I can tell you this: What it takes to be a very good police officer (is) an advanced ability to make quick, ethical decisions continuously, daily, routinely under stress. That's the first thing. Secondly, it requires the ability to apply an enormous amount of laws (apply is the key word) during an investigation, to solve a wide range of problems. Third (is) a combination of intelligence, physical fitness and emotional maturity. Those three things, I would emphasize."

"The last thing," Arcaro says, that's needed is "this intangible quality of being able to handle adversity and constant exposure to danger. That last one can't be taught, it can't be taught in full. It has to be experienced. That one I want to emphasize, it is commonly forgotten, or underestimated – the constant exposure to hostile people, adversity, just the danger, (the) constant exposure to danger. That has a tremendous effect on individuals. I believe it's the most prominent factor in building a very strong character. That's the positive part about it. When you're constantly faced with stressful, dangerous situations, it builds personal character. All the other problems seem small, to be able to handle it. That's one of the greatest advantages of the job. It teaches you that a lot of the problems in this world are small, or solvable. It helps you place priorities."

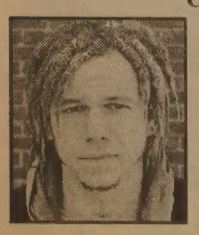
"But most important (is) moral character. If I had to pick one thing, one thing that will dramatically elevate a person's chances of getting hired by the police, it's moral character. That's why the taxpayers pay the police. They give a great deal of trust to the police, so therefore, the person's character has to be morally strong to get hired by the police. I believe that's the most prominent factor."

Boccinfuso says that flexibility dealing with diversity, self-control, self-confidence, analytical thinking, and problem-solving skills are the key qualities for a police officer to have. "I like to have to use many skills in an environment. It helps build character."

"Essentially, it's a tremendous combination of personal skills and qualities," Arcaro says. "It starts in childhood, being taught right from wrong. It starts with your parents, it starts with all the influences right from childhood all the way to adulthood. That's what makes a good police officer. There's no single path, there's no single test, there's no single thing that will help you become a good police officer. It's a whole life-long of attributes, personality traits and skills."

Students can save money by not parking at college

By BILL STEPHENSON
Staff Writer
Column



Stop paying to park at the college. You don't have to.

There is a way for you to save money and get exercise.

Surrounding the college are an assortment of subdivisions. Simply park your car on the side of the road and walk over to the college's campus. However, be careful, and keep your eyes open for no parking signs. Be smart and cautious: it's not worth scamming the school just to be picked off by the cops.

I have been utilizing this technique for a year and a half. There is only one downfall: the walk over in the winter or rain, but, marching through snow banks and splashing through the rain is worth saving the money.

Back in my first year, I used to pay $3 daily to park at the school. One day I was taking a different route to school and I noticed some practitioners of this park — without paying technique in a nearby subdivision. Now I have become a regular, as has my friend Dan D'Amico.

I enjoy seeing all the usual vehicles every morning. As for the location of this subdivision — find your own — but try not to overcrowd the subdivisions. We all want them to be safe.

Now I hear the daily fee for on-campus parking is $3.50. Well, here is your chance to defy the authorities that raise the prices to new and ridiculous levels each year.

Lose weight and save money!

I hope I will be seeing more and more of you in the subdivisions as the year slowly ends.

THE SAC VOICE

STUDENT ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL WELLAND - GLENDALE - MAID OF THE MIST

Happy St. Patrick's Day!!

All right, before we all go out and drink copious amounts of green beer I wanted to tip a hat toward everyone who participated in the SAC Sexual Awareness Week and all the other SAC activities of recent weeks.

Also, even though it may feel like the year is winding down, we aren't. We've got a ton of great stuff happening right until the end of the year. Keep your eyes open and make sure you don't miss anything.

Ryan McLaughlin
SAC Prez, Welland Campus

STUFF-WE-B-DOIN'

- **March 19**
  Tri-Campus
  Battle of the Bands
  Come see the College's music scene compete in an all-out jam for $500 of recording time and a paid spot in the regional and national finals. Starts at 7:30 pm

- **Monday, March 19**
  Blood Donor Clinic
  "Give the gift of life"
  Located in the Welland campus gym, sponsored by SAC, Canadian Blood Services and Aramark Food Services.

- **Friday, March 23**
  CHEAP DATE 2001 !!
  One big band, one small venue, you, your friends and a helluva good time!!
  See SAC or Pubs for details on how to win tickets. It's the only way to get in.

- **Tuesday, April 3**
  Annual General Meeting
  2:30 @ Glendale Campus (W114)
  Annual General what?? This is the time we (SAC) get to tell you guys what the heck we've been doing this year, and let you know of any changes we're making for next year.

- **Thursday, April 12**
  Year End Bash
  The Party of the Year! Watch for details about the only way to say goodbye to the school year.

ADDITIONAL INFO. @ SAC OFFICE

SAC of the FUTURE

WELLAND

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Jeff Dutcher

VP Internal Affairs
Karen Brown

VP Public Relations
Christopher Newman

GLENDALE

President
Brodie Mosher

VP Internal Affairs
David Young

VP Public Relations
Eduardo Resendiz

MAID OF THE MIST

President
Reginal Osborne

VP Internal Affairs
Glenn McFarlane

VP Public Relations
Bryan Cleaver

SAC MOVIE NIGHT

STARRING
Geoffrey Rush
Kate Winslet
Joaquin Phoenix
Michael Caine

FREE FOR ONE FREE NIGHT ONLY

Quills Sex, lies and violence; so maybe you haven't heard of it, but come out and see 'one of the year's best films' about a notorious French writer put in an asylum for his near pornographic writings.

Popcorn available for $1.50/bag with $1 going to the Adopt-a-Landmine fund.

@ After Hours pub, Tuesday, March 20
DOORS @ 8pm SCREEN @ 8:30

CELEBRATE SPRING with

MAID OF THE MIST CENTRE CAMPUS'

SPRING INTO SPRING WEEK

March 19
Tropical Isle Day, wear your Hawaiian Shirts and Shorts

March 20
Spring Thaw BBQ

March 22
Spring Slave Clearance, buy a Slave and give to the Adopt-A-Landmine Fund

Win Cheap Date Tickets ALL WEEK !!

Matchmaker Results are in

Pick them up in the Welland SAC Office

HERE'S THE BUS

Health care on wheels rolls across Niagara

By PAUL FINELLI
Staff Writer

This is one health care idea that's literally rolling along in the Niagara region.

Since September 1999, the Regional Niagara Public Health department, in St. Catharines, has operated the Health Bus. The mission statement states the service is to create equal health care access to all Niagara residents and provide comprehensive health care through prevention, treatment and referral, while striving to improve quality of life. As well, it is to partner with community members to make services accessible to all in a non-judgmental, efficient and effective fashion.

The mobile service was begun by Wise Guys, a St. Catharines charity that raises money for assorted community projects. "They should really get credit for putting it on the road," stressed Alan Spencer, a sexual health manager at the Region's public health department. "They were one of the key players."

ALAN SPENCER

He explained it was the Wise Guys who first approached the Regional Municipality of Niagara. It took the Region and the group "substantial time" in choosing the right size and type of bus, scheduled stop times and locations, among other things. The only other service of its kind in the province is in Toronto, to Spencer's knowledge.

Spencer explains, "So what they (Wise Guys) do is they said, 'We've got an idea. We'll buy the bus. We'll get it all outfitted. You guys operate it. What do you think?' So we sat down with them and with community players and we started planning." From that first meeting, "a lot of planning" was involved with other community organizations that were approached and had already expressed interest in affiliating with the unique idea. Spencer noted Community Care, in St. Catharines, was "a big player in the planning," as was Welland's Community Resource and Action Centre and Niagara Falls' Project Share.

However, he noted, "The Wise Guys did all the fund-raising," adding the group donated around $250,000 to purchase and equip the vehicle.

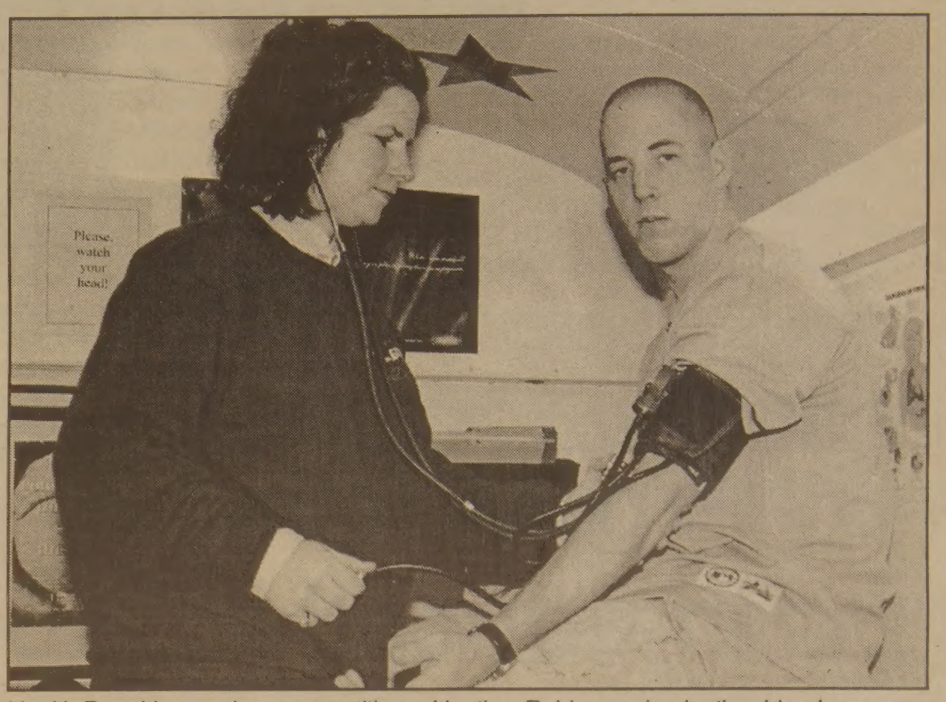
The Health Bus's vision statement is to address unmet health needs to the downtrodden and those geographically isolated and/or without access to medical resources. In other words, while homeless people were a target group initially, Spencer said, "Certainly that's not the only target group. In many ways, the Health Bus is a step to try to go out closer where people are and draw them in and say, 'Come on in. Let's talk about your health.'"

To get the word out, organizations involved do much of the promotions and advertising for the bus and may offer open houses and promotional days as well as community postings in malls, public buildings and schools like Niagara College.

Unlike regular health services, the Health Bus does not require formal written referrals and a health card. Community agency employees can accompany clients to the bus or make them aware of when the Health Bus is in their area if they decide to access it alone. People are served on a first-come, first-served basis.

Confidential services the bus provides include treatment for minor medical conditions, immunizations, information on birth control and sexually transmitted diseases and testing and treatments for them, health education, general health assessments, dental screening/prevention, referrals and mental health counselling – the latter "a big one," Spencer noted.

The bus is staffed by the public health department on a rotational basis with mainly paid registered nurse practitioners, public health nurses, dental hygienists and assistants. The Region pays for the bus's dental and "non-dental" staffing and upkeep of the bus, its supplies and equipment. There is a minimum of two staff and a maximum of five on the bus, but not always for dental services.



Health Bus driver and nurse practitioner Heather Robinson checks the blood pressure of Aaron Ficho, 22, of Thorold, a student at Brock University in St. Catharines.
Photo by Paul Finelli

The Health Bus stops throughout the region at several community agencies and other locations like churches. The schedule changes seasonally (April and November) to address the clienteles' needs. "We cover as much of the region as we can," Spencer said. "What we do is we try to locate the bus in places where people will tend to use it. It's going to be an easy-to-get-to facility."

Since the bus was in operation, it has had 2,295 non-dental and 589 dental visits, or a total of 3,384. "That's visits, not people," Spencer clarified, "so it may include some repeat users of the facility."

Spencer made it a point to erase some of the public's misunderstanding or confusion about the Health Bus. "It's not a walk-in clinic on wheels. There's not a doctor there, there's not a dentist there, although we do have minor medical services and we have dental services. You can't go there and get your fillings or your teeth extracted. You can't go there and get a diagnosis of everything you can imagine and get prescriptions for all the stuff. It's minor medical."

For more information on the Health Bus, call the public health department at (905) 688-3817 or 1-800-263-5757. For a current stop schedule, call the Health Bus at (905) 688-3817, ext. 245.

Career Fair 2001 offered many job opportunities

By KANDIS THORSBY
Staff Writer

March 15 could have been the most important day of your life. It was Career Fair 2001.

Niagara College, in partnership with Brock University in St. Catharines, gave students and alumni from both institutions the opportunity to further their career paths. There were many industries and major marketing companies represented at the fair to inform job seekers what human resource departments are looking for in the career market.

The Career Fair was held at Niagara's Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The opportunity provided students with an inside look on what they could be doing in their future or at employment options to explore on the long road to working in a field appropriate for them.

See the *Niagara News* on Friday, March 23, for a full report and photographs on the event.

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EDITORIALS

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Province needs investments in education, not Olympics

The results are in and they don't look good.

Nearly one-third of Ontario Grade 10 students have failed the province's first high school standardized literacy test. Only 61 per cent of Grade 10 students passed the test.

The poor results are not a short-term problem. We need to concentrate on improvement.

Results could be attributed to a number of factors.

Perhaps the new high school curriculum is delivered at too fast a pace for some students. Too much dependence on calculators and computerized spell check programs could be another. This isn't only for students though. It isn't rare for a teacher to refer students to their spell check program or calculator rather than teach them.

Maybe students didn't take the test quite seriously enough. A good proportion of students who failed didn't follow instructions properly or just didn't complete a part at all. That's the government spin on results.

Perhaps the biggest factor is a decrease in the quality of education students are receiving. Premier Mike Harris and his government must understand that with increasing numbers of students coming to schools, decreasing the number of teachers is not helping the situation.

Larger class sizes mean less one-on-one instruction and out-of-class assistance available to students who need it.

Premier Harris, it's time to take another hard look at education. *Instead of vowing to pay any debt incurred by an Olympics with* our tax dollars, you should be dedicating our money to education reform. The future of our children is too big of a stake to play with.

Scott Rosts

New bill will protect children from Internet-stalking pedophiles

Seducing children into sex is a crime.

Until recently, however, it has not been illegal to stalk children over the Internet.

On March 14, Federal Justice Minister Anne McLellan tabled a bill aimed at changing this situation.

The bill will make it illegal to lure children into sex over the Internet.

It is laudable for the federal government to want to criminalize the corruption of minors using the Internet. However, it is a sad indictment of our justice system that until this bill is passed into law, pedophiles will be allowed to use the Internet to pursue children without risk of criminal prosecution.

Why has it taken so long for our government to act?

There are certain standards to which a fair and just society should adhere. While there are many who fear police monitoring of private communications over the Internet, there has to be a method for law enforcement to prosecute those who would take advantage of this powerful new tool.

Freedom and responsibility go hand in hand.

To allow pedophiles to use the Internet, unobstructed, in the name of freedom is irresponsible.

There are taskforces such as "Project P," the Ontario Provincial Police child pornography unit, which have not been able to act against pedophiles using chatrooms to access children.

With this law, they will be able to prosecute.

Justice will be served.

Calum McNeil

Your voice or opinion is welcome in our Letters to the Editor section. Our policy regarding letter submissions is this: All letters must be received on the Friday one week prior to publication. Each letter must include the writer's name, college identification number and program of study.
All letters must be signed and include a day and evening telephone number for verification use only.
All letters can be mailed or brought to the Niagara News newsroom, Room S212, Simcoe Building, Welland Campus.

ADVERTISING RULES: The advertiser agrees that the publisher shall not be liable for damages arising out of errors in advertisements beyond the amount paid for the space actually occupied by the portion of the advertisement in which the error occurred. This applies whether such error is due to the negligence of its servants or otherwise.
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INSIGHTS

Why we celebrate St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day fast approaches! Here's to more green beer. I pray "the luck of the Irish" befalls you and the Lucky Charms leprechaun takes you to his gold, not his cereal. OK, I've said too much already of my last St. Patty's Day.

Drinking, though — isn't that what March 17 is about? Like New Year's Eve, it's essentially a time for getting . . . nicely plastered. Is this what the Church intended when it marked March 17 a feast day to honour the devoted and sainted Irish bishop? My guess is no. An interesting life ol' Pat had, anyway, and there may be a clue as to all the boozing.

Born in Wales in AD 389, with the given name of Maewyn, he was pagan until he was 16. At that age he was captured by Irish marauders and sold into slavery, through which he found God. Six years later, he escaped slavery and studied for 12 years in a Gaul monastery under a bishop's tutelage. During his training, he found his calling to convert pagans to Christianity.

By PAUL FINELLI
Staff Writer
Column

Having adopted his new Christian name, Patrick became the second bishop of Ireland in two years before winning Irish converts, a fact that angered the Celtic Druids. During his 30-year mission, against some adversaries, he travelled throughout Ireland and established monasteries, churches and schools in his quest to convert all of Ireland to Christianity. This was before he retired to County Down, Ireland. He died in AD 461, the date — you guessed it — March 17.

Today it's believed Patrick loved to use the three-leafed clover or shamrock in his sermons to explain the Holy Trinity (the Father, the Son, The Holy Spirit), ergo the whole shamrock thing.

There's also the myth or "blarney": that he raised people from the dead, that he gave a sermon atop a hill that drove out all of Ireland's snakes, that he whooped Satan in wrestling, even that he taught the Irish the secrets of distillation.

Aha! Maybe that last one was, is, a reason to drink (in Pat's honour of course) on March 17. Even so, I bet most people don't need a real reason to drink on that or any other day, right?

Happy St. Patrick's Day! Do drink responsibly. Should you run into that Lucky Charms leprechaun . . . forget it. I think I'll lay off the green beer this time.

Divorce — marital hell

Fifty years ago, divorce was uncommon, but today, in a new millennium with changing times and family values, divorce is an accepted way to end a long-term legal relationship.

Fifty years ago, people only remarried when a spouse passed away; now people remarry because they are divorced and have "found somebody new."

Do people really learn from the first marriage? What happens if the second husband or wife turns out to be like their first one?

By JENNIFER CHORNLEY
Staff Writer
Column

Well, they go through the miserable, painful process all over again, but this time the people divorcing know what's coming.

People are now skipping the legal nuptials and just live together as common-law spouses. Nevertheless, in these situations, people still go to court to sue for custody, child support and any possession one or the other has decided not to give back.

I have drawn up my own list of grounds for divorce. They are in no specific order and of equal importance.

1. One spouse or both are literally "nuts." Hey, it happens.

2. Lack of Communication. "Communication" is a big word few people understand. Sex is a form of communication but not the right way to solve problems. Sorry, folks.

3. Spouses drown themselves in their work without realizing it. Some people are perfectionists and workaholics and will not leave work until they accomplish their goals. I understand a few professions demand long hours, including journalism in all forms, working on the oil rigs, law and business. If the spouse is bonkers or just a pain in the behind with nagging, it's acceptable.

4. Adultery. Simple as that. One person must be lacking something from the partner and deals with that urge by seeing another man or woman, not bothering to let the other person in the marriage know what is wrong. How do people expect relationships to work? It takes two, not just one, to solve the problem.

5. The couple spent too much time together before they were married, so much in fact, that now they are sick of each other.

6. The aggravation of a woman nagging causes some men to think marriage is an overdose.

7. Victims of circumstance. For example, the couple is ready to break up, but she reveals she is pregnant with his child. Therefore, they get married to make sure the child grows up in a two-parent environment.. It's a disaster after 15 years and they divorce.

8. Alcoholics and druggies. These are very expensive habits these people have, so much in fact, they determine where the family's income goes. I advise you now, if you know your future partner has a problem, to support your partner, but stay away. It's a dangerous combination.

9. Money. How much money one person makes seems to dominate the marriage. If one isn't making enough, the other one complains he or she can't support habits. They divorces, one sues, and the courts laugh at them and say, "Quit tying up the court system."

10. The spouse is gay or lesbian. Simply put.

These may be silly explanations, but this is the straight forward view. Life isn't always going to be peachy when you get married.

Nobody has a perfect marriage; even "Hollywood couples" go bonkers.

When people say "I do," they always think, oh, it's going to last forever and my new husband/wife is unlike all the other guys/gals I dated.

I will never forget what my high school English teacher said one day. When the priest says, "Is there anybody who feels this couple should not get married, speak now or forever hold your peace," begin to recite the divorce statistic rates from the past five years. Who knows, it may prevent that couple from becoming a statistic.

Sisters: somtimes more than relatives

Do you know of anyone who would steal your clothes, borrow your makeup or eavesdrop on your phone calls? If you have a sister, you know where I'm coming from.

They're the ones you get into and out of fights with. The ones you do the Friday night makeovers with, who watch movies with you eating popcorn while gossiping over "hot" actors on Saturday night.

By BROOKE DREDGE
Staff Writer
Column

Sometimes, arguments are cat fights over everything, and mom and dad each pick a child and play favourites.

Besides the griping and arguing, valuing sisters' relationships is the greatest feeling in the world. Knowing you carry such a strong bond with another person is everlasting, and the pact between two sisters is something that time can't overturn.

The love I carry for my sister has good and bad moments. We giggle, gossip and have fun that sometimes I forget we're sisters.

Beyond anything else, my sister, Ashley, is my bridge over troubled waters. She has always been there for me when things are going well and when they aren't. She listens to everything I say, just as I do for her.

I've been told that growing up, I had "a problem with having a sister," because for a long time I was the only one, so she and I didn't get along. Mom would warn me that Ashley would end up being the greatest friend I had in the world if I gave her a chance, and you know what, I'm glad I did!

We do have our moments when everyone just stands back and lets us "duke it out." Our relationship wouldn't be so strong if we didn't have a few squabbles.

My sister is one person *I don't think I'd ever be* able to live without. There would be no me! And that's the truth.

It's obvious. My sister means everything in the world to me. The germ of an idea for this column came from a phone call a few weeks ago she made to me. She wanted to tell me her report card grades but, more important, she wanted to tell me how proud she was of me and that she was excited I was almost done college. Hearing that, I couldn't have been more proud of her or myself.

This is a thank you, for being my sister but, more important, my best friend. I will always have my sister, from now until eternity. That is a bond no one can break, so for that I am very grateful God blessed me with the best sister of all.

When intervention's as important as prevention

Don't let life get you down.

On Feb. 7, I got a telephone call from a friend. He told me that a mutual friend had died the day before. The thoughts raced through my mind as to what type of tragic accident he was in, before I finally asked what happened. It wasn't a car accident or a work-related accident, as I had originally thought. He had hung himself in my friend's garage.

I sat down, speechless. I told him I'd catch the next bus back home, in time for the funeral. I made a few calls, not sure if I believed what I heard, but knowing I wouldn't be lied to about something like this.

I went right to the funeral and met up with some old friends that I haven't seen since the last funeral I attended. I paid my respects to the family. They seemed to be taking it considerably well, but it was obvious they were torn over the whole ordeal, and understandably so.

It was hard for me to see a friend, whom I had just seen over Christmas, lying there in a coffin. He was 19 years old. There were many unanswered questions, the biggest of which was "why?" Was life that awful he felt he couldn't go on? Didn't he know he had friends he could have talked to? We were the same friends who were there sobbing, wondering what they could have done to prevent this tragedy.

By PATRICIA HUGHES
Staff Writer
Column

I was hoping to get answers but am left with the same questions. No one knew why. He didn't leave a note. He always seemed happy. Unfortunately, we couldn't read his mind and because he didn't ask for help, his loved ones are left to suffer.

I realize now you should talk to your friends more often. Let them know what problems you face and what obstacles you may need help to overcome.

I got to see friends I haven't seen in years and it's sad that it takes a funeral to bring you closer to people. What really disturbed me was I didn't see friends that I should have seen there — people who lived in town, but didn't bother to stop in, just to simply make an appearance and show that they cared. It showed me, and probably others too, who our true friends were.

I don't think my friend thought about the people he was going to leave behind nor about the impact his death would have on them.

You're supposed to overcome your problems, not let them overcome you. Some people forget there are places you can go for help.

Suicide may stop your suffering, but the suffering moves to the people you leave behind.

INSIGHTS

Canadian Tire doesn't practice what it preaches

By LAURA T. RICCIUTO
Staff Writer
Column

Nothing in this world is free.

Each day I am increasingly stunned by the greed in our society.

I am a penny pincher, thrifty and maybe even sometimes cheap, but never without reason.

I am a strong believer in proper money management. After all, we are students accumulating debt as we struggle to make a future for ourselves, and we only have so much money to go around.

Recently I was experiencing a clicking sound on my vehicle, so I turned to Canadian Tire for automotive assistance. Boy, what a mistake.

As I had recently checked and topped off all the fluids under the hood several days prior, I assumed the noise was the result of a loose fan belt.

The noise continued to get louder. Click, click. Click, click. Click, click.

Worried that something worse might happen, I pulled it into the nearest service station, which happened to be the Canadian Tire on Niagara Street, near the college's Welland campus.

I kindly requested that the man check what may be causing the noise and to give me an estimate prior to doing any work.

Within several minutes the mechanic notified me my truck had leaked out all of its oil and that's likely all it needed. After replenishing four quarts of basic 10W30 motor oil, the clicking immediately stopped.

As I cashed out, I was told the bill was $24.57.

At first I was relieved to think that for $25, my car was quiet again, but after I reviewed the detailed invoice I was actually quite appalled.

It turns out the same Canadian Tire that had preached to me in a job interview its main priority is to "build customers for life," billed me for every single second spent on my vehicle

Here's a hint, Canadian Tire. If you want return customers, it helps if they don't feel as if they just got ripped off . . .

That's right, I was billed for exactly 17 minutes and eight seconds of service, which at Canadian Tire's hourly rate of $63 ran me about $13.

I'm not a novice when it comes to paying the expensive hourly rate of mechanics, but for goodness sake, all this man did was check my oil. This is not a service that requires one to be "mechanically inclined."

Think about it. When you pull into a service station to have a gas attendant check your oil, were you ever charged an additional $13 for someone to pour a quart of oil? I didn't think so.

If you think I'm being cheap over a mere $13, do you realize it takes more than two hours of working at the minimum wage to earn this "small" amount?

I could have had my oil and filter changed for less than what they charged me to put in $8 worth of oil.

This incident having offended me, I decided not to return there several days later when I noticed smoke coming from under the hood.Turns out this time my truck blew a radiator hose and was leaking antifreeze all over the hot motor, in turn making the smoke.

Tim spent practically an hour on my truck, repairing the hose, adjusting the clamp and replacing the antifreeze. When I asked him for the bill, he shook his head and replied, "Don't worry about it, and if it gives you any more trouble bring her back in."

Now that's what I call customer service. Not only did he spend four times the amount of time on my vehicle, he actually did more than open up a quart of oil.

Customer service is more than just saying " . . . and have a nice day, ma'am."

It's about doing a little extra for a customer, not necessarily free of charge, but something that would make your service stand out from the rest.

Here's a hint, Canadian Tire. If you want return customers, it helps if they don't feel as if they just got ripped off every time they walk out your door.

Congratulations, Canadian Tire. You succeeded in making an extra $13, but your automotive department just "lost a customer for life!"

Blaming gas company employees won't lower prices at the pump

By SCOTT ROSTS
Staff Writer
Column

Next time you pull up to the gasoline pumps and pay 70 to 75 cents for a litre of gas, be thankful you filled up for so little.

Being a clerk at a self-serve gas station, I hear all the whining and complaining about gas prices. Sometimes people even treat me as if I'm the one to blame.

Well, my fellow drivers, look at these statistics and maybe you'll stop complaining.

A study by the International Energy Agency has concluded that after taxes, only Americans pay less than Canadians do for gas.

The study, using rates from July 2000, found gas in the

United States was 64 cents (Canadian), compared with 75 cents a litre in Canada. Germany, France, Italy and Japan all doubled Canada's rate at around $1.50 a litre, while prices in the United Kingdom were about $1.84 a litre.

When you take the taxes off the price, Canada's gas is actually cheapest at 43.6 cents a litre, compared with 48.9 cents in the U.S.

Don't get me wrong, I would like to be paying around 50 to 60 cents a litre, but realistically this isn't going to happen. We need to look at the facts and realize that we are lucky to pay around half of what countries overseas are paying.

Next time you pay near 70 cents at the pumps, don't complain to the employees and, especially, don't make it seem as though they're the ones to blame. We hear it constantly and I don't think people remember that we buy gas at the same price as everyone else.

If you really want a venue to vent your frustrations, speak to our government. Federal and provincial taxes have gone from 1.5 cents a litre in 1984 to 25 to 30 cents a litre today.

Letter to the Editor
Sincere thank-you to Journalism-Print program student given by law enforcers

Dear Editor:

I'd like to take an opportunity to recognize an outstanding journalism student. The Niagara Regional Police (NRP) Service recruiting branch asked for help to convey employment opportunities to the entire student population through the Niagara News.

I asked Aaron Yzerman, a Journalism-Print program student, to consider writing an article that would include the NRPS request.

Aaron agreed and worked diligently on a large article that appeared in the *Niagara News* edition of Friday, March 9.

The NRP recruiting branch has expressed their sincere thanks. Additionally, I personally commend Aaron and would like all to know that he is an outstanding representative of the Journalism-Print program and a credit to the college.

I immensely enjoyed the interview that he conducted. His questions were intelligent. His professionalism is superb. I have dealt with a wide range of journalists for both sports and police articles and I can honestly say that this interview was one of the most enjoyable and professional one that I have experienced.

Congratulations to the Journalism-Print program and to Aaron. He is an inspiration to all students. He will be entering a screenwriting program and intends to pursue a film-directing career. I am certain that Niagara College will be able to boast about Aaron's achievements.

Gino Arcaro
Co-ordinator
Law and Security Administration program
and Police Foundations program

Letter to the Editor
Satisfaction surveys allow students to give their feedback at Niagara

Dear Editor:

KPI (Key Performance Indicator) Surveys! There seems to be some confusion among students about what this actually means. One student (in a Letter to the Editor, Feb. 16, 2001, *Niagara News*, Vol. 31, No. 11) seems to think they are about the administration trying to make us evaluate the college the way "they" want to make "them" look good.

This is not the idea at all. Whether or not we like to admit it, running a college is business. It requires good staff, good resources, growth and up-to-date technology. All of these things cost a lot of money and add value to our certificates, diplomas and post graduate credentials.

Niagara has recently built the Glendale campus, undertaken plans to expand the Maid of the Mist campus, set up programs for Virtual Reality and laser Photonics, and is now expanding our programs to be offered in China.

This growth moves us from a regional community college to a level that positions us as a first class diversified college.

This growth does not come cheap. The KPI surveys are a great way for students to give feedback to the college and to help the college get money which adds value to our diplomas.

The Student Satisfaction Survey had many questions that are designed to give the administration direct information about how satisfied we are about many things. There were four questions marked OVERALL that are questions for the government to use that count for extra money.

I think that when we completed the surveys we needed to know this information to consider it in our answers.

The KPI funds get divided very simply. The top third get to divide two-thirds of the money; the middle third gets one-third of the money and the lower third gets to divide zero.

Last year we hit the second group and got $400,000. This happened while Humber (College, of Etobicoke) got $2 million plus and Conestoga (College, of Kitchener) got $1 million plus to renovate and upgrade their schools.

I just ask that we realize that when we answer the KPI questions that we consider that what we say impacts our future. We deserved to know what the components of the survey mean. How we answered the questions was personal and private and I, too, filled out the survey in an honest and informed manner.

Chuck Holmes
Student
Business — International Business program

Your voice or opinion is welcome in our Letters to the Editor section. Our policy regarding letter submissions is this: All letters must be received on the Friday one week prior to publication. Each letter must include the writer's name, college identification number and program of study.
All letters must be signed and include a day and evening telephone number for verification use only.
All letters can be mailed or brought to the Niagara News newsroom, Room S212, Simcoe Building, Welland Campus.

MONEY MATTERS

Free tax returns for cash-strapped students

By CHRISTINE CHALONER
Staff Writer

Attention, all low-income individuals, especially students. It's time to get your hard-earned money back — free.

The Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP) is a group of volunteers trained to assist you in the completion of your tax returns. This program is from the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA) and is community based with eligibility for the service depending on demographics.

The CVITP will file your tax return and send it away free. Refunds usually take between 10 and 14 days.

This program is available at Niagara College until Friday, March 21, between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. This service is only available at the Welland campus, in the Secord corridor, but is available in free clinics in Welland, St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, Port Colborne and Fort Erie.

In order to participate with CVITP you must be either a single individual whose annual income is under $20,000 or married couples (including common-law) whose combined annual income is less than $30,000. The program targets seniors, students, social assistance recipients and newcomers to Canada.

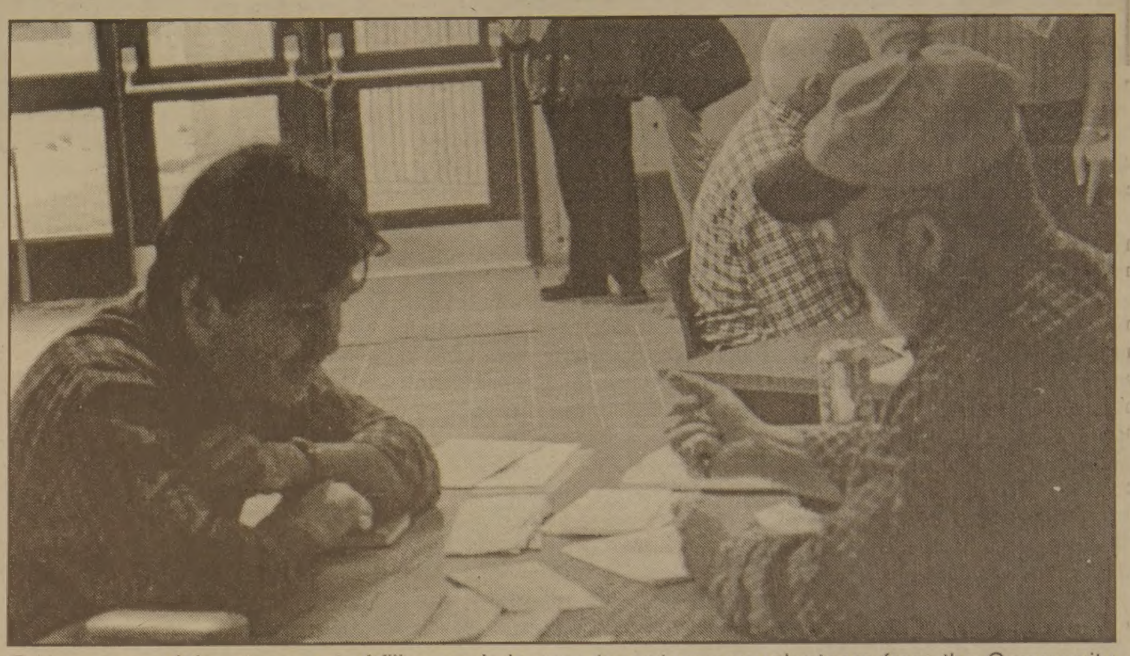
Those who don't qualify are people with the following types of income or expenses: rental income (or losses), capital gains (or losses), foreign income, self-employment income (or losses), partnership income (or losses), employment expenses and support (paid or received).

Brigitte Chiki, the college's director of student services, says CCRA has been offering this service at the college for about five years. Until last year, students were trained to handle tax returns and assisted other students.

"This means they (students) have to get organized," says Chiki.

Students may not know what they can claim, but these trained people can help get more money back for them.

The program attracts about 100 to 200 Niagara College students a year and is designed to encourage public participation in the completion of returns.



Taking some of the stress out of filing one's income tax return are volunteers from the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program. Here, a volunteer helps a tax filer. Canada Customs and Revenue Agency sponsors the program. The free service is available at various locations in the Niagara region.

Photo by Christine Chaloner

For information as to where other free clinics are, call the CCRA at 1-800-959-8281.

Tourism program student 'shocked' to win Attractions Ontario scholarship

By HEIDI MORRISON
Staff Writer

Students' ears tend to perk up when the word "scholarship" is mentioned.

Second-year Tourism program student Brian Taylor says he was "shocked" when he found out he had just won.

"I didn't even know about the award," says Taylor, 20, who attends the Maid of the Mist campus in Niagara Falls.

Last October, Taylor says he was notified that he had been chosen to receive Attractions Ontario's Don Dailley Scholarship.

The scholarship was created in memory of Colonel Dailley, a former member of the association. Annually it is awarded to students "who demonstrate outstanding potential, enthusiasm, and dedication in the tourism industry," a letter he received states.

Brian Taylor, a second-year Tourism program student, accepts the Attractions Ontario Don Dailley Scholarship from Louise Roberge, vice-president of Attractions Ontario.

Submitted photo

In addition to Taylor, there was another recipient at Georgian College in Barrie, Ont.

Taylor was able to go to a conference in London, Ont., at the Attractions Ontario's annual general meeting, where he says he had a "great time."

Human Relations students cook up more than $1,000 in BBQ raffle

By PAUL FINELLI
Staff Writer

Niagara College's Human Relations program students were at it again.

Second-year students of the program at the Welland campus raffled once more for charity on March 8 at the Welland campus and March 9 at the Glendale campus, in Niagara-on-the-Lake. At the end, they raised $1,150 for Community Care of St. Catharines and Thorold, in their first time teaming with that charity.

Founded in 1919, the group aims to meet needs, provide bridges and create opportunity. Its clients include the unemployed, the underemployed and those needing education or training. Some of the agency's programs and services are student co-op placements, a food drive, a clothing program and a medical, dental and vision care assistance program.

"We were delighted to beat our goal of $1,000," stated Dave Bevington, 30, of St. Catharines, a second-year Human Relations program student and team co-ordinator, by e-mail on Wednesday.

The other raffle organizers in the program were Krista Rootes, Mike Congdon, Sarah Oliver, Julie Pasquariello and Tony Savoia.

During the raffle at the Welland campus on the previous Thursday, Bevington explained, "We approached them (Community Care) and saw that it was a worthy cause. Their motto is 'We give a hand up, not a hand out.'"

At the time of the raffle, Bevington, said, "We're hoping to hit $1,000 and we're almost half way," adding they raised $400 already within that last hour, whose names will be posted later on campus, were drawn on Tuesday. The prizes included a romantic one-night getaway for two at White Oakes Resort and Spa, in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and a Dynasty Fiesta 400 propane barbecue anonymously donated.

By e-mail, Bevington said, "We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to all the staff and students of Niagara College, as well as members of our community . . . Special thanks to Ms. Dale Davis and the staff of Community Care of St. Catharines and Thorold, for the opportunity to help and for all the guidance throughout this fund-raiser."

Bevington also thanked the prize donors: White Oakes Resort and Spa, Henley Pet Centre, in St. Catharines, Pilliteri Estates Winery, in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Boston Pizza, in Niagara Falls, registered hypnotherapist Cliff Preston, of St. Catharines, as well as the Welland and Glendale campus Student Admnistrative Council offices.

Nancy Ostrander, co-ordinator of the Human Relations program, praised the students' efforts on Tuesday. " They've done a terrific job . . . These guys have done an excellent job. I'm very proud of my human relations students."

For more information on Community Care, call (905) 685-1349 or (905) 227-9240.

FREE

"Need help in filling out your Year 2000 Income Tax Forms?"

Free Income Tax Clinic
Wednesday, March 21
Secord Corridor (across from Financial Aid)
Welland Campus ONLY
(other free clinics available
in the Niagara Region)
Call 1-800-959-8281 for details

Free e-filing for speedy refunds
Hundreds of students over the years have prepared and filed their income tax forms using the FREE Community Volunteer Service
- you can, too!!

Sponsored by: the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (formerly Revenue Canada)

FREE

NIAGARA'S AUTHORS

Her Story books 'filling gaps' in women's history

By JENNIFER CHORNLEY
Staff Writer

She has studied and discovered women's history by reading through "piles" of books and even found a woman she'd like to research by looking at a postage stamp.

"Always interested" and "curious" about women's history, Susan Merritt compiled her research into a three-book series, *Her Story: Women from Canada's Past I, II,* and *III*.

Merritt, 48, began the Her Story series by signing a contract in 1991. The first book was published in 1993.

She says the Her Story I was "a stand-alone" novel because "I didn't know for sure if there was going to be a second or third book."

Within the book, "each story is a self-contained unit from across Canada, coast to coast," Merritt explains. "I tried to get women from every province (and) region, not just women associated with Ontario."

Along with the regions and provinces, Merritt tried to get women from "all walks of life, levels of lifestyle and education." The chapters include women who are native, white or black. Picking the women to appear in her book was just like "choosing cabinet ministers" for Merritt.

Information for some women was "difficult to track down," including their dates of birth and death. Merritt says, for some, she didn't know whether to include the individual in her book. Merritt "likes" to illustrate her books with photos and the women's artwork, but with one artist she could not get the permission to publish a reproduction of the woman's artwork, thus eliminating her.

The research process "varies." Occasionally, it may be a single source of information in one book, while for other women Merritt has to "scramble all over the place" and "spill into piles of books" for that little bit of information. In general, the research and writing process takes about three months.

When writing these books Merritt says she was "filling the gaps in what was out there. I thought it was something I could produce. There was a good market for it (books about women's history)."

Merritt's favourite aspect of writing is the research. "It's kind of fun. I can accept or reject it (the information found through books), but to go, sit down and write it yourself is not fun, but I have to plow away at it."

As to whether fiction or non-fiction suits her, Merritt replies, "I don't like one or the other, but both have their challenges. That's why I do both."

With non-fiction, she says, there are facts that give some structure and with this aspect, "you can shape a story by omitting certain facts, which can change your view." At the same time though, "you can't speculate on things," she says. In fiction, Merritt says, "the world is your oyster," but with no form upon which to shape a story, she says this makes it "daunting."

Merritt says writers want to give up on their writing every day, and she has these "doubts all the time. I have to silence that voice and keep plugging away. I have to keep at it or (else) nothing gets written."

Merritt says to choose her "favourite" women is "hard to say" because she has always studied history. Elsie MacGill, who conquered the obstacles of her physical disability and established some important ideas in the aircraft industry, and Emma Albani, the first Canadian-born internationally known opera, oratorio and concert singer, are just some of the few women Merritt found to be an "interesting surprise."

If not for Queen Victoria, Merritt says she wouldn't have studied women in history, noting she was startled at the significant woman because she studied mostly men in the history books. She had a curiosity about what women were doing at a time when women didn't exist at all, socially. Merritt was "fascinated with their stories, but at the same time annoyed" because she had never heard these stories before.

Will she publish a fourth Her Story book? She says she has to make sure there is a need. "There are lots of interesting women, a lot of material, but it's a question of the book-buying market and business."

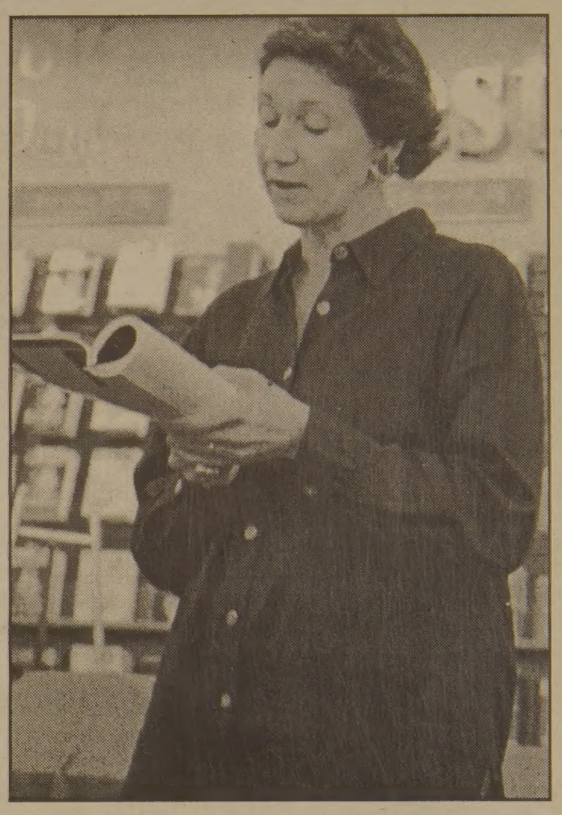
Asked if she would write more children's books, Merritt says, "I enjoy writing for children. They have a great imagination, but again it's a question whether the publishers feel a need for these types of books on the market."

Her personal library consists of about 500 books collected over the years, mostly on women's issues. "I keep my eyes open" for anyone she may not have discovered yet.

When not writing, her interests and hobbies include gardening, kayaking and collecting books. She and her family "love going to a bookstore" and they exchange books at Christmas. "We love the printed word."

Merritt kayaks along Lake Erie's shore and Twelve Mile Creek. She says it's so quiet that she is able to see lots of interesting birds and fish that she wouldn't see with a motorboat.

As well, she is the chair of the Ontario Women's History Network. This committee encourages the study of women's history and members meet twice a year. Merritt also belongs to the Writers Union of Canada.



Merritt reads from her book Her Story III: Women from Canada's Past in Chapters, in Fairview Mall in St. Catharines on Sept. 8, 2000. Her book was short-listed for the Chapters/Downtowner Book Prize 2000.

Photo by Jennifer Chornley

Merritt's mother has had an influence on her life. She says her mother was a widow at 44, when her father died from a heart condition. Her mother "always put great emphasis on education" and encouraged her daughter to receive as "much education as possible."

Her post-secondary education consists of a bachelor of arts degree in English from the University of Western Ontario, and a degree in law.

Merritt lives in Ridgeway with her family: Cameron Williams, a lawyer, and their two children, Catherine, 18, and Blake, almost 15.

Battlefield reading, writing exhibits love for history

By JENNIFER CHORNLEY
Staff Writer

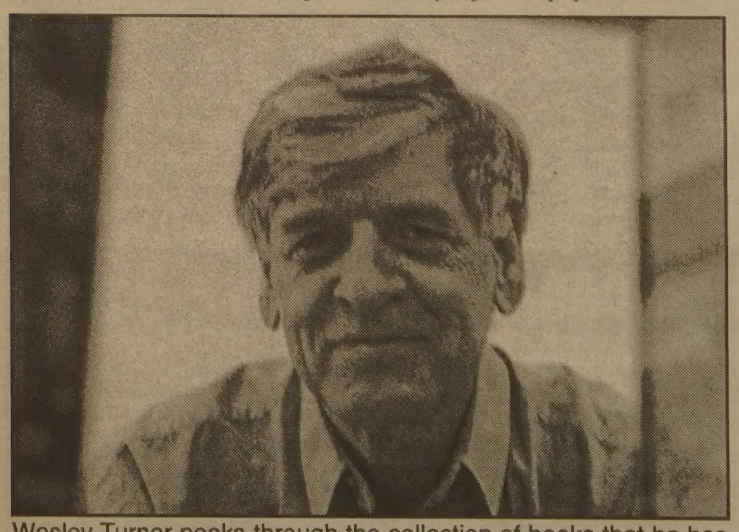
His plans include to "plod and struggle along" and "looking at new ideas and exploring new things to do."

Wesley Turner, 67, is an author, historian and retired Brock University professor.

Turner began his career at the St. Catharines university in 1967, where he was lecturer, moving up through the ranks to assistant professor and associate professor by the time he left in 1998. From 1985 to 1988 Turner was the chair of the history department.

His major interests are Canadian immigration history, especially the War of 1812, a subject on which he has published books and articles, and the British Empire. Turner has also taught European and world history.

Since retiring, Turner says he catches up in readings on military history, philosophy, fiction or "whatever looks interesting." Turner reviews books for the Canadian Book Review Annual, for the Canada Historical Review and the Downtowner magazine.



Wesley Turner peeks through the collection of books that he has written over his career.

Photo by Jennifer Chornley

Turner's books include *Album of Upper Canada,* 1987, which sold about 4,000 copies; *The War of 1812: The War that Both Sides Won*, published by Dundurn Press in 1990, reprinted in 1993 and now being revised, has sold about 3,000 copies. His *British Generals in the War of 1812: High Command in the Canadas*, is published by McGill-Queen's University Press and was also short-listed for the 2000 Chapters/Downtowner book prize. He assisted Morris Zaslow in editing *The Defended Border - Upper Canada and the War of 1812*, published by Macmillan in 1964, when Turner taught high school history for seven years.

Turner has taken his writing to various levels in newspapers, encyclopedias, journals and his books, "whatever came along, whatever I had the time for."

He says the hardest aspect of writing is "time. Time is always a problem. Also, you gather more information than you need and writing the first draft is the hardest. It takes a long, long time."

Turner says he always "loved" writing, even in high school. If you are an historian, he says, "you know you are going to be writing."

Following his love for history took him down the path of completing three levels of university degrees. "Dr. Wesley Turner" was printed on a back cover of one of his books and Turner, shyly elated, says, "That was a little blurb the publishers put in."

He obtained a bachelor of arts degree in honours history from the University of Toronto in 1956 and a master of arts in 1962. Turner achieved his doctor of philosophy in history from Duke University in North Carolina in 1971. "It was a long struggle for my first university degree." Turner says he was the first in his family to go "that far" to obtain his education.

Travelling is an interest Turner says he enjoys, and he plans to travel more in the upcoming years. He has been to the east and west coasts of Canada and the United States, France, Italy, Germany, and the British Isles. Of course, if there are battlefields nearby, Turner will try to visit those places.

In the 1960s, Turner visited Europe with some friends and "had a terrific time. I knew enough French to get around. We wore the Canadian flag because we didn't want to be taken as Americans as the Americans were not popular at the time."

If he could select any place in the world to live, he says, "London and Paris are great places. I would like to have a flat in each of them, but (Niagara-on-the-Lake) is awfully hard to beat."

Born in Toronto, Turner and his wife, Diane, 62, chose the town because of its "history and character" and "my wife always liked it." Diane is a former elementary and special education teacher of 34 years.

Besides his accomplishments, he says the most important aspect in his life is his family. "My family is the first thing that I am happy and proud about."

Douglas is the eldest of his three children. He is an actuary for an insurance company, while Turner's middle son, Gordon, is in the pharmaceutical business.

As for his daughter, Jennifer, Turner laughs and says he can't explain what she does, but it involves the fields of science and computers.

PROFILES

Administrator tells of African experience

By JENNIFER CHORNLEY
Staff Writer

Africa beckoned her in 1991. Almost 10 years later, Martha Casson is Niagara College's vice-president of enterprise and student services and is on a different kind of journey.

Of her adventures travelling, she recalls, "I was flying to Lesotho in southern Africa the night the Gulf War had begun. We were in airspace beside Iraq when the pilot came on and told us that war had been declared."

As she was arriving in Lesotho, the Canadian Embassy warned travelling Canadians to stay abreast of the problem, especially if they were flying up the continent toward Iraq. Travelling through war zones has different rules.

Lesotho is "a tiny, more laid-back country that's on top of the world." It was here she took an extended six-week vacation in South Africa in 1994 working for a non-governmental organization school for black South Africans. They were barred from schools in their own country, under apartheid. Casson worked in South Africa during the election period leaving just before voting day.

"It gave me a chance to work well-beyond the headlines," she says.

The teaching and learning style in the southern part of Africa differs greatly from practices at Niagara College.

Casson says in Africa the teacher is at the front of the room, while each student stands up saying, "Good morning, Sir." There is no opportunity for questioning or interacting. In the end, the group of students Casson had was learning how to question, and interact, activities which for them were "just so exciting."

Martha Casson, vice-president of enterprise and student services, points to Swaziland, a nation which is her "favourite country" on the African continent.

Photo by Jennifer Chornley

Swaziland is Casson's favourite country on the African continent.

"It (Swaziland) is a small and beautiful country that is on the border of South Africa and Mozambique. It encompasses the three significant elevations (levels). It has a low veldt (open country, grassland), middle veldt and high veldt. You move through the country through a microcosm of all of southern Africa. It's a kingdom. It's fascinating."

Nevertheless, Casson says, "The people in Swaziland are eternally happy." People wear red feathers in their hair, to symbolize their relationship to the king. She says when the king has 36 wives, there are, therefore, many people with royal blood.

Casson says, "Swaziland has a very special place in my heart. I will go back. The dust of Africa will never leave your boots."

It was while she worked at Humber College, in Etobicoke, Ont., that Casson had the chance to visit other African countries including Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Casson co-ordinated a four-year program with another dean. The Canadian International Development Agency, through the Association of Canadian Community Colleges, funded the program. It would be through this agency that Casson came to know Niagara College.

Only Botswana, Swaziland and Lesotho were able to receive assistance, because world political sanctions prevented government money from being used for South Africa.

After four years, Canada lifted its sanctions and "we were asked to bring people from South Africa into the program. They wanted a replication or a new program, with a broader mandate to include South Africa. So we (Niagara College) were the first college to have a proposal into the Canadian government on the day the sanctions were lifted."

With Niagara College and Humber College working together, Casson got to know some of this college's administration before coming to work here on Feb. 3, 1998.

Representing Niagara College, Casson is working with the United Arab Emirates, considered by her to be "probably the most fascinating country of contrast. Unexpected things, (like) the combination of wealth and development (with a) firmly based culture," she says.

"It is so interesting to be at a university designed like the White House, with shiny granite, with people in their traditional dress, including the women totally covered in black, with their small visors, so they are just seeing out, on a cell phone.

"So traditional, that when I would walk down the hallways with individuals they would be fine with me, but one time I was walking with a man and immediately the whole face (of the women) was covered."

During her years at Niagara College, Casson has worked in countries in Latin America, such as Colombia, Chile and Ecuador as well as in Europe, in Hungary.

Her mandate is to work on the college's broad strategy for international and global development and involving Niagara's international programs. The two- and three-year international business programs have been "very popular," along with a post-graduate program, Casson explains.

The programs are three-year Business Administration — International Business program, two-year Business — International Business program and a post-graduate program International Business Management.

Continued on page 23

Juggling reporting career, motherhood

By JENNIFER CHORNLEY
Staff Writer

Heather Junke is a balanced person.

The writer and editor for Brock University's Office of External Relations in St. Catharines spoke to second-year Journalism-Print program students in January about her experiences in the world of newspapers and balancing family life with the life of a reporter. Throughout her presentation, she also gave hints about how to survive working the long hours of a job "you love."

The 1979 graduate of Ryerson Polytechnic University in Toronto, Ont., has almost 20 years in the journalism profession. Junke has worked at the *St. Catharines Standard*, *The Cambridge Daily Reporter*, in Cambridge, Ont., and smaller newspapers in Brockville and Orillia, Ont.

Junke, 43, explained to the class that "working at a smaller newspaper in a town of 20,000 or 30,000 will be a good experience." This will give a person a chance to be involved in all aspects of the paper because reporters in small towns find themselves covering such diverse topics as council meetings, human-interest features and sports.

Junke warns that with these opportunities come "the long days" and the "here-and-there weekends," but being a reporter is "not as predictable as a nine-to-five job."

Reporters might normally work from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., but she says there will be the "odd" evening assignment.

Financally, Junke advises that when reporters move to the bigger newspapers "they can make some good money. You can make enough money to enjoy it."

Even when a reporter assumes an editor's position, she says editors may have a gruelling schedule at newspapers such as the *Hamilton Spectator* or the *Toronto Star*. Their job editing copy for the next day's edition begins at 1 a.m. or 2 a.m.

Heather Junke reads the newspaper of her former employer, the St. Catharines Standard. Junke discussed the balancing of work and home life with second-year Journalism-Print program students.

Photo by Jennifer Chornley

Junke says being a reporter with a family is "like trying to juggle craziness." One example she provides is juggling day care to meet the children's needs as they grow and "working crazy shifts." As her children got older there were more after-school activities. That's when Junke decided she wouldn't work as a reporter anymore.

Her two children are Meghan, 14, and Jeffery, 12. Her husband, Doug, writes for the business section of the *Toronto Star*.

Junke left the *St. Catharines Standard* when the newspaper was going through the transition from being privately owned by the Burgoyne family to becoming part of the Hollinger chain.

She says there was new technology "and all aspects became electronic."

While at the *Standard*, Junke was the lifestyles editor, assistant sports editor and a news copy editor.

Asked how a person could improve grammar skills, if need be, Junke advised "working at it. . . .. Keep it tight. (Writing that is) short and concise can keep a story alive."

Having marked three years at Brock University, Junke says her job — writing for the staff newsletter — is "great. It's a nice environment with a lot of variety. It's an exciting time with a lot of new initiatives."

As a writer and editor for the Office of External Relations, she also writes press releases. For Junke this is a "really different" job at which she gets to see the other side of the media world by initiating the news.

"What's the hitch to this story? What does this mean for the newspaper?" and how will a reporter take this information and "pursue a story" are issues she considers while writing the press releases.

When Junke graduated from her three-year Journalism program at Ryerson Polytechnic University in Toronto, she explained there were no internship or co-op opportunities. These, she says, would have helped because "making some contacts is really important." She pointed out that people in the organization can also provide a letter of reference.

"If you know somebody, take it to another step. Show your enthusiasm and during that one month (of field placement) make the most of that time."

HEALTH FILES

Epilepsy month; new campaign launched

By TERRI LYNN LeBLANC
Staff Writer

March is National Epilepsy Month.

Epilepsy affects about one per cent of the population as 300,00 Canadians have the disorder.

The brain disorder causes a person to have seizures. When brain cells are damaged, the brain can't handle the number of messages being sent to it at one time, creating message overload.

During a seizure, the damaged brain cells send over 500 messages to the brain every second.

There are four main types of seizures. The first, the most serious, is a generalized tonic-clonic, also called grand mal. This type of seizure affects the whole body. A person has a sudden cry, and falls, and then experiences convulsions. The person may lose control of the bladder or bowel and exhibit bluish skin.

The seizure lasts about two minutes. The person may feel confused or tired and then return to full consciousness.

The second type of seizure is a simple partial seizure. This affects half of the body. Jerking may be in the arm, the leg or the face. This may also affect a person's sense of smell, causing dizziness or nausea.

The third type is an absence seizure, also called a petit mal. A person may just feel "out of it" for a moment. It can start off with a blank stare that may last a few seconds. This type of seizure is more common in children.

The fourth type of seizure is a complex partial, also know as a psychomotor or a temporal lobe. This starts with a blank stare and is followed by chewing and random activity. A person may be oblivious to the surroundings. Lasting a few minutes, the seizure will cause the person to have no memory of what happened.

To assist a person having a seizure, place something soft under the victim's head and turn the person on his or her side. Remove all objects from around the person to avoid injury.

Madonna Barker, of Whitby, Ont., says she was diagnosed with epilepsy about "10 years ago."

Barker says she didn't have any symptoms before her first seizure. She didn't lose any sense of smell, didn't become dizzy and didn't feel "out of it."

She says she "just felt depressed."

The 46-year-old hairstylist has had about five seizures in the past 10 years. All of them were a generalized seizure. The last one she had was two years ago on Jan. 2.

Asked if epilepsy interfered with her day-to-day life, she says, "Sometimes. I'm worried it (a seizure) is going to happen again. As long as I'm on my medication, I'm OK."

Anybody can have epilepsy. Doctors don't always know why people have this disorder. About half of the people with epilepsy have had a serious head injury, lead poisoning, or a severe infection of the brain.

If a person's brain cells are damaged, that person may be at risk. People with epilepsy have a high risk of serious injury and death. Their chances of dying are about three times higher than a person who is not suffering from seizures.

Seizures are diagnosed by detailed medical history, including liver and kidney function. The doctor may look for signs of an infection, anemia and other conditions that cause seizures.

Other tests that may be conducted are electroencephalographic (EEG) readings, magnetic response imaging (MRI) and computerized tomography (CAT) scan.

EEGs translate the electrical activity of the brain into a series of wave lines. Normal electrical activity makes a recognizable pattern. People who have had seizures have different patterns, which doctors can also recognize.

MRIs can look inside the brain. A large magnet is used to create an image analyzed by a computer. A CAT scan is similar to an MRI. This test has the ability to see the brain through X-rays to see if any surgery is needed.

This year, Epilepsy Canada will be launching an awareness campaign to show the importance of epilepsy research.

The organization, in Montreal, believes that the way to demystify this neurological disorder and to eliminate the persistent prejudice about those suffering from epilepsy is to provide more information about it.

Epilepsy Canada's campaign theme is "Bringing epilepsy out of the shadows."

Madonna Barker, who suffers from epilepsy, relaxes after a day at work.

Photo by Terri Lynn LeBlanc

The organization asks those living with epilepsy to come out of the shadows by showing their talents, making their dreams come true and breaking the silence about this invisible disorder that creates so much discrimination.

Epilepsy Canada says March signifies the beginning of springtime, a time of renewal and of hope.

For more information on epilepsy, call 1-877-SEIZURE.

Kidney sufferers find relief

By CRYSTAL LANGILLE
Staff Writer

More than two million Canadians suffer from kidney-related diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure, kidney stones or urinary tract infections.

Kidney failure is a life-threatening condition. When kidneys fail, toxic wastes and fluids accumulate in the body. The only treatment is dialysis to artificially clean the blood or a kidney transplant.

In the 1960s, a patient diagnosed with kidney failure had little hope of survival, but when Morty Tarder, of Montreal, died of kidney failure at the age of 26, his family was determined that others didn't have to suffer as they had.

They decided that an organization should be founded to raise money for research and patient services.

In 1964, a group of people from Montreal established what was then called the Kidney Disease Foundation of Canada. Their purpose was to raise money for research into kidney diseases.

Twenty years ago, only half of kidney transplants were successful, and kidney dialysis patients spent up to 36 hours a week connected to a machine, in order to stay alive.

Today, kidney transplants, the preferred treatment for most patients, are 85 to 95 per cent successful, and dialysis treatments have been reduced to about 12 hours a week.

March was officially declared Kidney Month in 1979.

The March Drive is the Kidney Foundation of Canada's largest annual fund-raising campaign.

It is the only national non-profit health charity.

During the March Drive, more than 85,000 volunteers go door to door to homes in their neighbourhood raising money to fund research and patient education programs.

The Kidney Foundation of Canada's national research program has become one of the most important sources of funding for scientists conducting kidney-related research, providing half of all funding available in Canada.

Since 1964, the foundation has contributed over $58 million to various research programs nationwide.

This March, their target is to raise $5.8 million.

More than 2,700 Canadians are on a waiting list for a kidney transplant. Some of them will die waiting because there is a critical shortage of organs available for transplantation in Canada.

Organ donation from one single donor can help about a dozen people, including two kidney patients.

"Because of its low visibility, kidney disease is poorly understood," says Marlene Shoucair, director of national communications for the Kidney Foundation of Canada.

"It is only through understanding and knowledge that communities can truly appreciate the value of our work and what it means to someone whose life has been touched unexpectedly by the news that they will require dialysis or a transplant to survive," she says.

The Kidney Foundation of Canada is committed to helping Canadians living with kidney disease. For more information about services are available or how to help, what contact the Kidney Foundation of Canada Regional office at (905) 641-8771 or visit www.kidney.ca.

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IMAGE IS EVERYTHING

Niagara: the meaning behind two logos

By LAURA T. RICCIUTO
Staff Writer

It was a common case of out with the old and in with the new.

As Niagara College entered the 1990s, Dan Patterson, president, says the college was "in need" of a new image, and so started the search for a new logo.

"It was recognized by the college that a fresh logo would be advantageous," commented the president.

When asked if he thinks the students of Niagara College know what their logo symbolizes, he quickly responds, "No."

In case you're wondering, the college logo symbolizes "an endless resource of pouring water as it carves a path in the rock, just as the College is carving a path into the lives of people seeking direction."

The design within the circular pattern of lines is to resemble a waterfall, as the word Niagara is said to mean "Great Water of Thunder."

Patterson says he realizes that not all students understand the meaning behind the pantone blue logo, but adds, "Logos are important. People should feel an attachment towards them."

"I own every conceivable logo put out by the college," comments Patterson, explaining how his wife Saundra has purchased "hundreds of dollars" worth of Niagara College memorabilia and clothing.

"Some people say I should have a tattoo (of the logo), but I haven't gone that far," chuckled the president.

Patterson says when the new logo was first adopted there were "many" plaques placed around the college but these have "been lost over the years." One of the few remaining plaques explaining the logo's definition can be found in the president's office.

Once the Niagara College community decided to look for a new symbol a logo task group was formed consisting of Niagara College board of governors members and college staff. An advertisement was placed in the newspapers requesting applicants from the Niagara region design a logo and submit an explanation with it.

In October 1992 Niagara College adopted the current logo, and awarded the designer $1,000.

From the 107 entries the college received, John Frame, a labourer from Smithville, Ont., defeated all others.

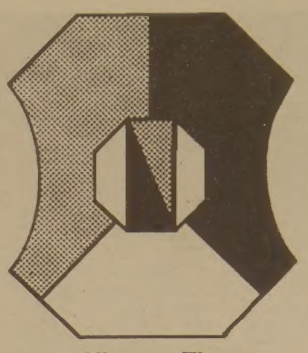
Patterson says he remembers putting his "two cents in" about the art work, but admits he can't recall who made the "final call."

The *Niagara News* announced the new logo in the Oct. 23, 1992, edition. The news report states, "Frame's design was a unanimous choice by the task group and the board of governors."

At the time of the competition Frame worked at Mohawk College, in Hamilton, but has since joined the staff at Niagara College, where he works at the Welland campus.

In 1967, Niagara College officials initially designed a logo to represent the institution because it was a "standing custom that educational and other institutions are easily recognized by their symbolic insignia," stated an article titled the Crest of Niagara that appeared in a May 1968 edition of the *Niagara News*.

The college commissioned Barry Barthorpe, of Toronto, to design a "distinctive and meaningful crest of Niagara."



Niagara Then

Barthorpe, who was a consultant of calligraphy and heraldic design, created what was referred to as a "simple and attractive pattern."

The colours of dark blue, light blue and white were selected by the students and faculty of the college. These colours were previously associated with the college's athletics department and became known as "double blue on white."

The former octagonal symbol of Niagara College housed four geometric figures, two trapezoids and two triangles that were to represent each of the proposed buildings of the college.

In the 1968 news article it states that the first trapezoid represented the Business Division, the second represented the Technology Division, while the triangles represented the Humanities and Applied Arts Division and Extension Division. Sculptured within the design was the capital "N" for Niagara.

Niagara Now

The article continues by stating the logo is to be "proudly worn in various forms by many members of the student body and staff at the college."

Patterson says the old logo "served us well." When asked if he foresees another change to the college logo he responds, "There is no immediate need for change."

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CATCHING A FEW ZZZ'S

Study examines effects of lack of sleep

By PAUL FINELLI
Staff Writer

Understanding sleep is at the heart of Kimberly Cote's study at a national centre for sleep research at Brock University, in St. Catharines.

From February to April, Cote, co-director of the Brock University Sleep Research Laboratory and assistant psychology professor, needs healthy sleepers for her study to examine the effects of sleep interruptions on daytime functioning.

A graduate of Brock with an undergraduate psychology degree, she joined the high-tech lab in September.

"I guess from my main area of interest is daytime sleepiness and how the brain is functioning and how you are able to perform during the day when your sleep has been disrupted on the previous night," said Cote. "All kinds of people experience this sleep fragmentation, sleep disturbance. Maybe it's because you're a young couple that has a baby keeping you up periodically through the night. Maybe it's because there's a train that goes by your house every once in a while, or you live close to the airport.

"For a lot of people, they have a sleep disorder called sleep apnea, which is a sleep-related breathing disorder where you stop breathing periodically during the night and you'd have to wake up in order to take a breath. So hundreds, thousands of times during the night you'll wake up. But the awakenings are so brief that you don't really notice something's wrong — it's just that feel you awful the next morning."

For her present study she needs volunteers between 25 and 45 who are "healthy sleepers, good sleepers who don't have problems and who sleep through the night." The selected participants must not be on medications and must be right-handed, non-smokers with English as their first language. Subjects are required to live in the lab for four nights and four days, a Thursday night to a Monday evening. "So, it's a big time commitment, but we've found some people willing to do it."

The particular criteria, however, aren't arbitrarily predetermined. "The reason I pick 25 to 45 is I don't want the really young adults. The 18-year-olds, they can pull an all-nighter and they're just fine," she said with a laugh. "But it's when we get a little older that the shift work and the sleepless nights really affect us. Then, of course, once we get even older we're running into other health and sleep problems."

Smokers are excluded, she said, as "nicotine has an alerting affect" and it "increases the physiological arousal," so it taints the study.

As for the actual study, using special equipment, she explained, "We're going to systematically fragment their (participants') sleep using tones and try to mimic this type of sleep disturbance that a lot of people experience. We keep them here for a few days and fragment their sleep and we look at how they function during the day. We ask them questions about their moods, about how sleepy they feel, and we'll do some reactions contrasts.

Brock University sleep researcher Kimberly Cote examines the brain activity of a test subject with the aid of Stan Lazic, 24, of Niagara Falls, a neurosciences student and centre volunteer.

Photo by Paul Finelli

"They wear the (electrode caps) all the time, but we're only recording from them while they're doing their computer tasks." The wired device, attached to the scalp, will record the brain signal as the subject does a given math problem, for example. There are six recording times during the day, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., each for 45-minute intervals. At other times, the subjects can do such activities as watching movies and reading books.

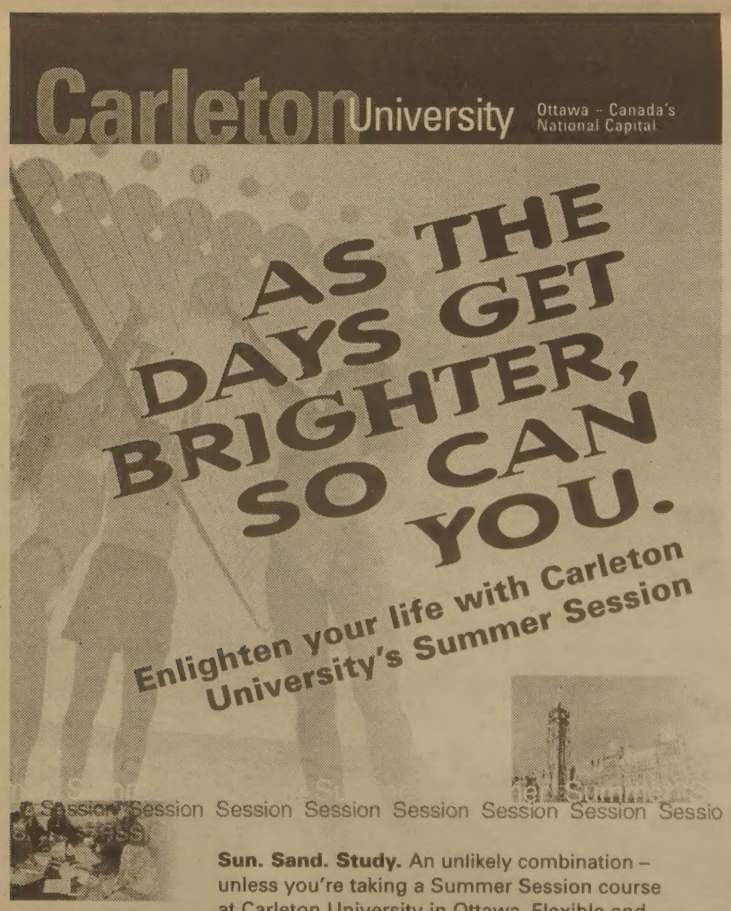
At the time of the interview, she noted, she already had selected six to eight volunteers from Brock and from the community. "We've had a lot of calls but we have to make sure that people are suitable for the study. So, often just with the telephone interview we exclude a lot of people."

What new insights does she then expect to gain through this study? "An understanding of the functions of sleep. We actually do not know at this point, in the year 2001, we do not know why we sleep; we have not yet figured that out. There's lot of theories and it's been an interesting debate, understanding the mechanisms of why you need sleep.

"Every person sleeps. All animals sleep. So why is that? What function might it serve in our body? Asking questions about what is a good night's sleep is just as important as finding out what's wrong with our sleep when something goes wrong."

Robert Ogilvie, a psychology professor at Brock and the lab's other co-director, founded the lab in 1973. Housed in the fourth floor of the Mackenzie Chown Complex, the facility has two bedrooms, a main sleep recording room, a washroom and a computer analysis room — all in a soundproof/radio-frequency shielded environment. The lab generally conducts studies using healthy, young adults. The lab is funded by federal like the National Science and Engineering Research Council.

For more information about the lab, the Web site is www.psyc.brocku.ca/~rogilvie/home.htm. If interested in joining Cote's study, call the lab at (905) 688-5550 ext. 3795. Participants will receive a $200 honorarium.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St. Patrick's Day only holiday celebrated outside native land

By COLLIN COULIS
Staff Writer

Get out your green clothes, grab a pint of green beer and get ready to eat some corn beef and cabbage because St. Patrick's Day is almost here.

Celebrated March 17th, Ireland's national holiday, St. Patrick's Day, is probably the only national holiday celebrated and recognized outside its native land.

Irish and non-Irish people throughout the world enjoy the camaraderie and merry-making associated with this day of recognition for the patron saint of Ireland.

Who was St. Patrick? Although reality becomes somewhat entangled with myth, some facts are clear. Sources differ on the location of the saint's birth; some historians claim he was born in Scotland, while most say he was born in Wales around AD 385. Irish folklore says it was St. Patrick who drove all the snakes out of Ireland.

His story goes some thing like this. Irish marauders raided his village when he was a teenager, after which he was captured and sold as a slave. He escaped to France after six years of slavery and converted to Christianity. After studying the gospel and becoming a priest, the Pope appointed him Bishop of Ireland and gave him the mission to spread Catholicism to the pagan people of the Emerald Isle.

His mission was quite successful, for he won many converts (much to the dismay of the local Druids). He set up many churches and schools in order to convert the Irish population to Catholicism. He died March 17, AD 461, which became the Irish celebration of St. Patrick's Day.

Many people believe that the "snakes" that the saint drove into the sea were not snakes at all, but the practitioners of ancient pagan faith. Over time, the idea that the snakes were a metaphor for pagans has been forgotten.

Besides being the patron saint of Ireland, St. Patrick is also the patron saint of engineers.

The traditional St. Patrick's Day meal is corned beef and cabbage served with a mug of green beer. You may be surprised to find out that corned beef and cabbage isn't a traditional Irish meal. Rather, it's an American invention. Irish immigrants to New England first enjoyed this dish. And the green beer? Well, it's just green food colouring (no doubt an ingenious marketing gimmick thought up by some ambitious pub owner).

The shamrock is the traditional symbol of this holiday, but what's the connection? Scholars believe that St. Patrick used the three-leafed clover to illustrate the Holy Trinity and so the shamrock became the symbol of St. Patrick's Day. Did you know that the fourth leaf that makes four-leafed clovers so lucky is actually a biological defect?

In Ireland, most businesses are closed on March 17th, with the exception of restaurants and pubs. Irish-Catholics go to church and attend Mass on this day. The people of the Emerald Isle enthusiastically embrace this holiday and even go so far as to dye entire rivers green.

Large, elaborate St. Patrick's Day parades are held in most major cities (Toronto has one every year).

For one day a year, everybody can have "the luck of the Irish."

HELPING HANDS

Helping people less fortunate can be thrilling

By RACHEL MONTOUR
Staff Writer

She works with people with special needs.

Anna Dick, 19, of Niagara-on-the-Lake, is in the two-year Educational Resources and Special Needs program at Niagara College's Welland campus.

Asked why she says she loves it, she states, "It is the thrill of helping people who are less fortunate. I like going out into the community and helping them all out. I love them all.

"I did a co-op at Bethesda working with adults."

Bethesda is an organization that serves developmentally handicapped adults at 393 Linwell Rd., in St. Catharines.

"They told me to work one-on-one with the clients and help them with different tasks, (and to) go there and talk to them, because they need people to talk to. People don't understand why they look the way they look or why they are the way they are." She says she plays cards and does puzzles with them. "I get a kick out of it. It makes me feel all nice inside."

ERSN students must complete co-ops as part of the program. "We have to do three (co-ops): one in an adult setting, one in a child setting and one wherever we want. It goes for one semester, from January until May." She says she chose her program because her uncle inspired her to go into this profession.

She works with adult individuals who have a variety of disabilities. "They're not any different from you or me. They're just normal people. They may be a little slower or they may have physical or mental disabilities, but that doesn't mean they're not an individual. If you treat them like you would treat somebody else, everything would be fine. People have this thing that they're dumb, so they treat them differently."

Asked what she would say to someone who was being ignorant towards him or her, she says she would approach the person and ask what the problem is.

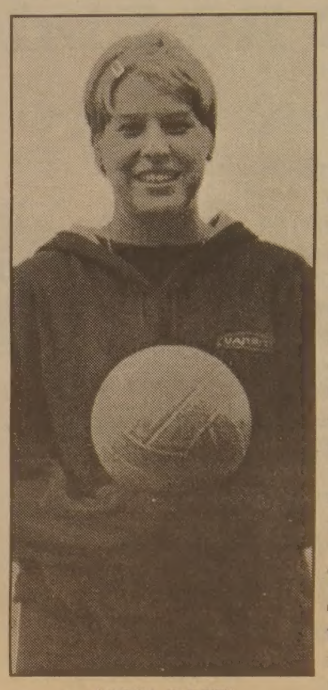
"They're not any different from you or me, so why don't you just get to know them better and maybe you'll see things in a different perspective."

She says her best quality when working with others is "I have a lot of patience with other individuals. I know what it feels like when people rush you. They may learn differently. We're all normal, we just may learn differently."

Asked how she likes her program, she says, "I really enjoy it. It's a nice experience to go out and see different agencies (and) how they treat adults in different settings. They have different group homes. I just like to see how they treat people and what programs are involved with each of them."

She says her hobbies include playing sports, including volleyball, basketball, curling, baseball and track and field. "I am a big sports fanatic. I joined varsity volleyball but I quit because of homework issues."

She says there were too many practices. "Since my schedule was so full, I had to juggle homework (and) volleyball. I just couldn't handle it. I like to take out my anger in sports, actually, to reduce all my stress."



ANNA DICK

Dick has a disability known as dyslexia, a disorder in which certain common problems arise such as slowness at acquiring spoken language and difficulties with speech. Other issues are confusion between words of similar meaning, difficulty in pronunciation, misunderstanding how words are heard, as well as difficulty in processing information.

"I am a visual learner. They classified it as dyslexia. I had a lot of tests done and that's what it was." She says she's not too sure what it is. "I can read a book better and faster upside down than I can (read it) right side up. I have to have someone talking to me and asking me questions. If I read it, it won't come out the same way. It has to do with reading more than anything."

Asked if this slows her learning, she says, "Not really. When I was younger, I felt like I was stupid (because) I couldn't keep up with the rest of the class. I had to go into a separate classroom. Now I know I have a learning disability. I know it takes me a little longer to learn than everybody else, so I just have to deal with it."

She carries dictionaries everywhere with her to help herself, and ahe doesn't understand words over 14 letters long. "I don't understand them, so I go to my own dictionary and it shows me what the word means in plain and simple English.

"I used to use tape recorders, but I would get bored listening to it. I would just fall asleep. I have note takers. My mom helps me a lot. If it wasn't for my mom, I don't think I would be in school. She takes time out of her own day and sits with me until I get it. It may take us two hours, or it may take us five or six, but she will sit there and go over every word with me. She says that this is what it is supposed to say and this is what it means. If I don't get it, we will go over it until I do."

Asked how the college has helped her, she says, "They have helped me a lot. I went into see one of the counsellors and they gave me computer programs. They gave me stuff I would have never gotten in high school to help me out."

She says her counsellor gave her a handheld dictionary/thesaurus. "They gave me a Kurzweil program which scans whatever you're reading in a textbook and brings it up on the computer (screen) and the computer will read it back to me. That way, I am not bored when I read something. They gave me a headset, which I can talk into and it will type it for me. They got me peer tutors and note takers. I couldn't even imagine all the stuff they gave me. They have helped me 100 per cent."

Asked what advice she would give to others, she says to look at what your disability contains and figure out what you have. "If you know what you have, then you can find different strategies and you can get different advice from people on how to deal with it."

Rachel Hopkin, 21, of Hamilton, is in the Early Childhood Education program at Niagara College's Welland campus. She has known Dick for 17 years. She says Dick is a smart and talented person "who reaches for her dreams."

"When she gets an idea in her head she goes for it." Hopkin describes Dick as a person who "smiles a lot and makes people laugh by telling jokes."

She describes their friendship as a "strong one."

Trudeau's politics, lifestyle will remain in our memory

By COLLIN COULIS
Staff Writer
Backgrounder

In the years to come, when Canadians look back on the year 2000, they will remember the first year of the new millennium as the year we lost one of our nation's greatest statesmen.

The Y2K computer-scare that introduced the year will be long forgotten, but the death of former prime minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau will linger in the hearts and minds of Canadians for generations. Whether you loved him or hated him, there can be no doubt that Trudeau left his mark on Canadian society.

He was the type of politician that journalists dream about; he was always doing something outrageous and because of that, he was voted "the most commanding Canadian of the 20th century" by the national media.

"As prime minister for nearly a generation, Pierre Trudeau opened a dynamic new era in Canadian politics and helped establish Canada's unique imprint on the global stage," said former U.S. president Bill Clinton to the *National Post*, the day after Trudeau died.

Born Oct. 18, 1919, Trudeau was the first Canadian prime minister born in the 20th century. He came from a wealthy Montreal family; his father was a French-Canadian businessman and his mother was of Scottish descent. In his youth, when he wasn't travelling around the world, he studied at the University of Montreal, Harvard and the London School of Economics.

Although he is best remembered for establishing a new constitution and entrenching the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, it is off-beat political-personality that captured the most memorable headlines. He cursed in the House of Commons, gave "the finger" to protestors in Salmon Arm, B.C., and jokingly danced pirouettes behind Queen Elizabeth's back at a signing ceremony in London, England.

He came to power in 1968 as a bachelor, in an era of free love and sexual revolution, and the Canadian public (and certainly the media) watched with extreme interest as Trudeau dated a long list of eligible ladies. Guitarist Liona Boyd, singer Barbara Streisand and actress Margot Kidder have all been romantically linked to the former prime minister. In the spirit of the times, he streamlined our nation's divorce laws and decriminalized homosexuality. He proved that he was the prefect leader for the "swinging '60s" when he delivered his now famous line, "There is no place for the state in the bedrooms of the nation."

In 1971, at the age of 51, he married 22-year-old Margaret Sinclair. The couple had three children together before separating in 1977 and finally divorcing in 1984. Margaret Trudeau called him, "A beautiful guy who taught me a lot about loving."

He could never please all of Canada; there was always some faction that didn't like what he was doing. His political career had at least as many "downs" as it had "ups." He alienated the Western provinces by increasing oil taxes, sent the country tumbling into debt by introducing a seemingly endless menu of social programs and angered his fellow Quebecers by not pandering to their demands for special treatment.

Trudeau seemed to have a rocky relationship with Quebec from the beginning. In 1968, on the eve of election, he stood his ground as angry protestors pelted him with bottles at the St. Jean-Baptiste Day parade in Montreal. His disfavour among Quebecers intensified during the October Crisis, when he invoked the War Measures Act and sent armed soldiers to police the streets of Quebec as a response to separatist-terrorism.

When Trudeau died, as a result of complications from prostate cancer and Parkinson's disease, on Sept. 28, 2000, at age 80, Canada was once again swept up in "Trudeaumania."

Perhaps former Beatle John Lennon said it best when he said, "If all politicians were like Mr. Trudeau there would be world peace. You people in Canada don't realize how lucky you are to have a man like Mr. Trudeau."

Next week we interview Trish Labonte, Niagara College's director of Continuing Education and director of Learning Resources. Read about her on Friday, March 23.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION

The Mexican not a true romantic comedy

By KEVIN HARTFORD
Staff Writer

The previews for Gore Verbinski's latest film, The Mexican, make it sound like a romantic comedy starring Brad Pitt and Julia Roberts. It's not. It's a rather violent crime caper starring Brad Pitt and Julia Roberts, and an excellent one at that.

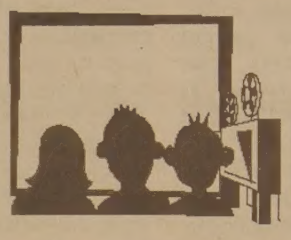
Pitt plays Jerry Welbach, a bagman for the Mafia who must venture south of the border to retrieve a legendary gun called The Mexican, leaving his girlfriend Samantha, played by Roberts, back in the States. The problem is, a lot of other people are after the gun, too, including a hitman named Leroy, played by James Gandolfini, who kidnaps Samantha in an effort to make Jerry hand over the gun.

Pitt and Roberts have maybe five or six scenes together, with Pitt spending most of the film in Mexico, while Roberts spends most of the film in Las Vegas. I repeat: it is not a romantic comedy. Guns are fired, death threats are made and bodies pile up throughout the film. It's not exactly a "date movie" like The Wedding Planner.

Everything in the film, from people getting killed by stray bullets to stage fright in public washrooms to Jerry shooting a car thief for comedic effect, works well within the context of the story. Roberts gets pretty shrill at times, but the actors do their jobs formidably, and the cinematography is amazing. Mexico has never looked so good on film.

Slasher-flick Valentine no match for The Gift

By KEVIN HARTFORD
Staff Writer



Towards the end of the movie Valentine, Dorothy (Jessica Capshaw), labels herself and her four friends: Kate (Marley Shelton) as the pretty one; Paige (Denise Richards) as the sexy one; Lily (Jessica Cauffiel) as the funny one; and Shelley (Katherine Heigl) as the smart one. Dorothy, in her own words, is "the fat one" and will always be the fat one. Is her inferiority complex enough to drive her to murder half the twentysomethings in Los Angeles?

The real question is this: Who cares?

At the beginning of the film, Shelley is working late at her med school, dissecting a corpse in typical med-student clothing: Capri pants and a tank top. She opens her locker to find a rather off-putting valentine card telling her she's going to die soon. Minutes later, a knife-wielding psychopath in a Cupid mask is chasing her down a hall and slitting her throat.

Days later, her best-friends-since-grade-school are getting similarly unromantic Valentine cards and dying similarly gruesome deaths. But who's the killer? Is it Dorothy? Is it Kate's mysterious boyfriend Adam (David Boreanaz)? Is it O.J. Simpson? Most fingers are pointing towards a man from the girls' past named Jeremy Milton, who was the object of a cruel prank at the hands of the girls when they were all in junior high.

Valentine embodies every slasher-flick cliché in the book: clueless cops, young women wandering off alone despite the fact a killer is on the loose, and a twist ending unseen since the heyday of Scooby-Doo.

Don't see Valentine if you're a fan of intriguing plots or intelligent screenplays. See it if you enjoy good-looking women running around screaming in cheesy slasher movies. Otherwise, you'll be wasting 90 minutes of your life.

The strength of The Gift, besides the excellent performances, involving storyline and amazing cinematography, is its ability to keep you guessing.

— Kevin Hartford

A good way to spend 120 minutes of your life would be to catch a showing of director Sam Raimi's The Gift. The Gift is about a psychic named Annie Wilson (Cate Blanchett), who makes ends meet by reading tarot cards to the locals in a backwater Louisiana town called Brixton. Abused wife Valerie (Hilary Swank) is one of Annie's clients, much to the outwardly hostile chagrin of her not-so-better half Donnie (Keanu Reeves). Donnie spends his spare time threatening Annie and her children when he's not beating his wife or punching out Brixton's village bicycler, Jessica (Katie Holmes).

One day, Jessica goes missing, and Jessica's fiancé Wayne (Greg Kinnear) and the local police enlist Annie's help in finding the missing girl. They locate her, with the help of Annie's psychic "gift." Unfortunately, she's now a corpse.

The strength of The Gift, besides the excellent performances, involving storyline and amazing cinematography, is its ability to keep you guessing. Pretty much everyone in town is a suspect in regard to Jessica's murder: Donnie, Wayne, Valerie, unstable mechanic Buddy (Giovanni Ribisi) and heartless lawyer David (Gary Cole).

It's genuinely suspenseful, and the emotional moments actually affect you, making it the polar opposite of Valentine.

FilmFest coming to Niagara

By SCOTT ROSTS
Staff Writer

Lights, camera, action. Attention, aspiring filmmakers. Here's your chance to show off your talent.

The second annual Niagara Indie FilmFest will be holding screenings from June 21 to June 23 at Brock University in St. Catharines, in the newly renovated Playhouse Theatre.

The festival will showcase diverse work of independent and amateur filmmakers from across the country.

According to the Niagara Indie FilmFest Web site, www.niagaraindiefilmfest.org, the festival is "designed to encourage independent production and to provide a forum for film makers and cinema buffs to interact."

Rob Macmorine, co-director of the festival with Joan Nicks and Deborah Cartmer, added the festival is an outlet to give an audience a look at non-commercial films. Nicks is a professor in the Communications, Popular Culture and Film (CPCF) program at Brock. Cartmer is president of Esprit Films in St. Catharines.

The deadline to submit films is April 13. Submission categories include narrative drama, comedy, documentary, animation and experimental. Macmorine says there is a charge of $25 for a submission, but there is $3,000 available in prizes.

"It's been quite good considering it's a month before the deadline," Macmorine says of submissions. He works with the CPCF program members at Brock. He says they expect a lot of submissions in the last couple of weeks.

"This festival is not an outgrowth of the old Niagara Film Festival in Niagara Falls," Cartmer emphasized. "We have nothing to do with that although that keeps getting repeated in the press."

Audiences are welcome to visit the viewings. Macmorine says he doesn't want to give a figure on admission prices but says it will be "very reasonable."

Since the festival is in its second year, Macmorine has simple expectations for the festival.

"We hope to continue to build on the audience we had last year, which was about 500 people, and bring in more filmmakers."

For official rules, entry form or more information you can go to the festival's Web site, or call 905-688-5550, ext. 3998.

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JUST A CLICK AWAY

Rave pants sold to highest online bidder

By RYAN McLAUGHLIN
Staff Writer

Fashion is raging, and the raves are the rage.

In the constantly changing, image-addicted high school world there is a niche for every type of clothing. The attitude inside those walls seems to be one of originality, not just of mind, but of design.

Lucy West, a Welland resident, has tapped into this market and is using her creative passion and the Internet to share it with the world.

West, using vintage store-bought bedsheets, makes custom-designed extreme wide-leg "raver" pants and auctions them off to the highest bidder at online auction super site eBay.

Her mosaic designs range from such nostalgic characters as Rainbow Bright and Care Bears, to ensembles that feature characters from The Simpsons, Sesame Street, and The Little Mermaid.

The idea came from a pair of pants that West's 15-year-old daughter, Bianca, saw on eBay's online auction and wanted for Christmas.

"It seemed like the ones that she seemed to be interested in climbed (in price). They didn't stay at a reasonable amount of money," says West, adding, "Some go for $100 or even $110, American."

Frustrated with not being able to get her daughter what she wanted, she decided to try making the pants herself. After meeting with success with the first pair, West has since made a number of "raver" pants and accessories (purses and hair bands) and has just recently sold her first pair online.

The sale, a Rainbow Bright design, went for $66US to a young girl in the States.

"I was frightened," says West about how she felt when she first put the pair up on the auction block. "I have a hard time selling things, I put a lot into them and it's more fun to just give them to people."

West says she is "frightened" that if something she creates is purchased it might not be liked and so she would rather just give it away. However, she is eager for the response that her designs get from her online customers.

At an early age, in Catholic school, West learned how to sew. "Even then my teachers would buy the stuffed animals I would make." She said her parents were "very artistic" and helped her cultivate her creative talents.

West's designs include The Simpsons, Care Bears, Sesame Street and more.
Photo by Ryan McLaughlin

Pant-making isn't her only crafty talent. Stepping into her home you are surrounded by a plethora of country-style decor. To the unknowing visitor it may appear to be a craft store, minus the price tags.

"It's not that I'm smart or anything . . . it's just I see it, I'm interested and I just pick it up," said the 30-something West. "If I love it, it goes to my head that I want to do it. I give it my best."

Lucy West makes pants at her home-based business in Welland. West began making them for her daughter due to the climbing price of the pants she wanted.
Photo by Ryan McLaughlin

West considers her designs an art. "To me, that's what it is. It's a canvas but you're wearing it." Even with that said, and a successful sale on the horizon, this pleasantly modest women adds, "I'm not an artist. I'm not a seamstress. it's just something I like to do right now."

West's pants can be seen at www.ebay.com under the name "pspur."

Area codes changing so start dialing three more digits

By KEVIN HARTFORD
Staff Writer

Get ready to start pushing more buttons.

Starting in June, you will be required to enter the area code for all local telephone calls in the 905 region. Even if you're calling a neighbour across the street, you'll have to dial the area code first. Why?

"There is such an increase in the demand for phone numbers," says Sindy Ammendolia, of Niagara College's Information Services — Switchboard. "People are requesting numbers. They're ordering services, and Bell Canada is basically running out of numbers in the 416 and 905 area codes."

As of March 5, 10-digit dialing was mandatory for people living in Toronto. After June 9, it will be mandatory for people living in the Niagara region to do the same. If you throw caution to the wind and dial seven digits instead of 10, you'll get a recording from Bell saying you must dial the area code, then the number. Niagara's second area code will be 289.

Ammendolia says technology such as cellular phones and fax machines are what has caused the decrease in available numbers.

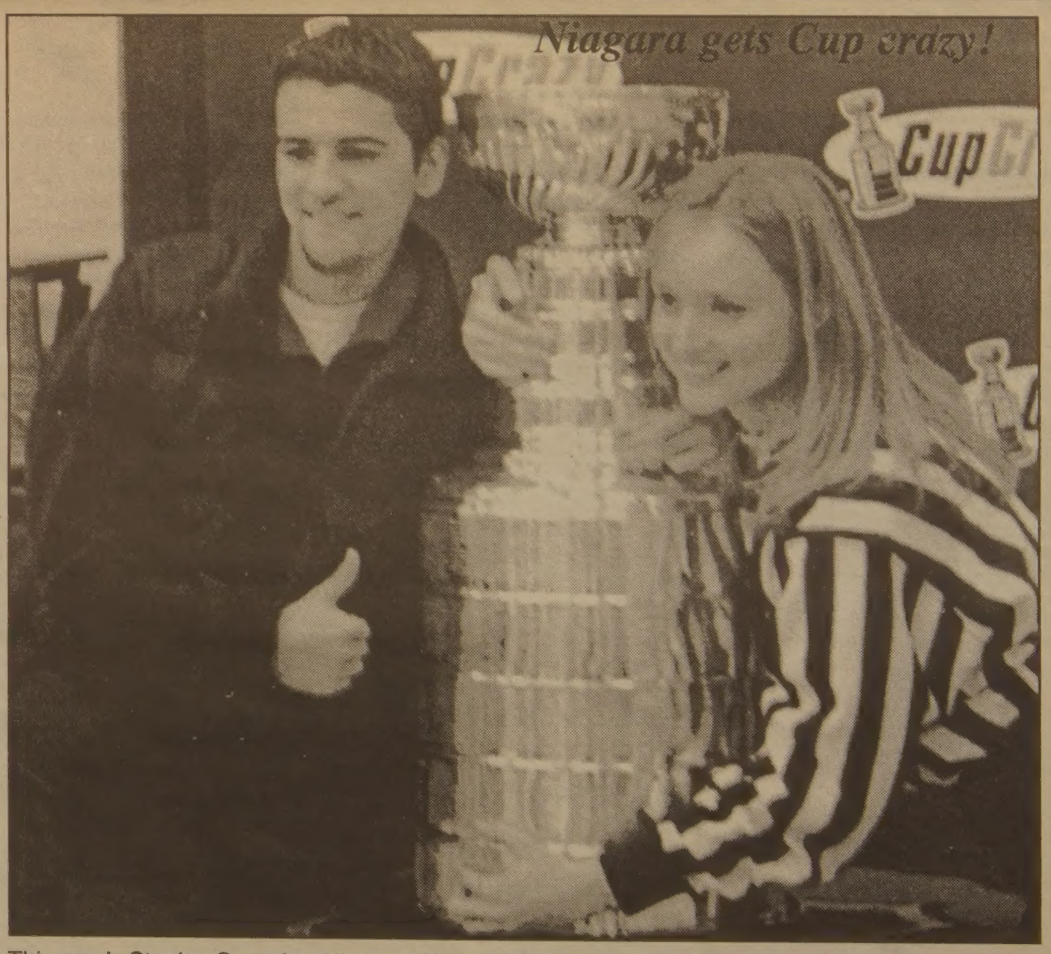
"The cellular boom pushed it here. I think it'll probably extend beyond the 905 region. It's a very real possibility, especially in urban centres. Toronto's been forced to do it, and that's an urban area. I can see the 519 region (southeastern Ontario) becoming the same."

How long does Ammendolia think it will be before a third area code is added to the Niagara region? "I think it'll be quite some time," she says. "It's probably been 10 years since we split with the 416 area code. I can't see it happening in the next five years unless there's another boom of a new wave of technology."

Ammendolia says people will consider 10-digit dialing to be an inconvenience at first, but that by September it will be second nature.

"I think the biggest issue will be people who forget to reprogram speed dials and fax machines, and to change their Internet dial-ups. There's a lot of hidden things people forget about because they're so accustomed to using them. People who are leaving numbers are going to have to get into the habit of leaving their area code."

The 10-digit dialing service is already accessible in the Niagara region. Just pick up any phone and dial 905 before a local number to find out.



This year's Stanley Cup winner has not been decided, and won't be until late June, but the Stanley Cup made a special appearance at the Niagara College gymnasium on March 14. Rob Luciani, 20, of Brantford, a first-year Journalism-Print program student, gives a thumbs up. College students and youngsters from Welland were able to touch the cup and get their photo taken with it.
Photo by Aaron Wilson

www.niagara-news.com

SPORTS

Local athlete discusses professional career

By AARON WILSON
Staff Writer

He stands seven feet tall.

Mike Smrek, 39, of Port Robinson, is a retired National Basketball Association (NBA) player.

Smrek was drafted in the NBA in 1985 by the Chicago Bulls after spending four years at college and getting his degree.

He took mostly pre-law classes and majored in political science at Canisius College in Buffalo, N.Y.

When he was 18 he travelled and played with the Canadian national team. "It was nice I got to go places like Brazil and Cuba."

He has played with five NBA teams in his career, including the Chicago Bulls, Los Angeles Lakers, Golden State Warriors, San Antonio Spurs and Los Angeles Clippers.

Smrek played professional basketball with Chicago from 1985-86, one year after the Bulls drafted Michael Jordan. "He was the most competitive person I ever met in my life." Smrek says he had a "great time" playing in Chicago. In 1991-92 Smrek played in Italy and Greece, and then took some time off and played one final year in 1997 in Croatia. Smrek says "it was great living there (in Europe). You get into their culture and learn to speak different languages."

He then won two NBA championship rings with the Los Angeles Lakers from 1986-1988, when he played with Kareem Abdul Jabbar, Magic Johnson and Byron Scott. "It was great playing with the Lakers. It was a great organization."

He went on to play for the Spurs from 1988-89 and then was off to Golden State in 1990.

"Even though playing with the Lakers was fun, it was just as much fun playing with the Warriors." It was with Golden State he met head coach Don Nelson. Although Smrek was coached by Pat Riley in his career, Nelson was his favourite coach. "He gave me freedom. I really liked Riley, but in games you didn't deviate from certain roles. It was like you were restricted."

Mike Smrek sits in his home with his two-year-old son Luke.

Photo by Aaron Wilson

He went to the Los Angeles Clippers in 1991. He says it was the "most miserable time . . . There was no real leadership. I mean they had a lot of talented players, but no leader. They didn't understand what it took."

The greatest moment of Smrek's life was not basketball related. He says it was "When my son was born. Playing for two NBA teams was great, but nothing compares to when my son was born." Smrek says he enjoyed travelling with the various teams. "You know, it was really hectic. In my first year with Chicago, we played nine games in 15 days on the road. You would wake up really trying to think what city you were in."

Smrek says he likes listening to Blues music. "I don't really have a favourite band, but if I had to choose a Canadian band, I really like Fathead."

He says the place where he wants to go the most is either Australia or Bora Bora. "I love the water, and I have seen pictures (of Bora Bora) and they bring your food out to you on the beach."

Smrek says he has always enjoyed snorkeling, and scuba diving. "I really like going under the water and exploring."

When playing for all the Los Angeles teams, Smrek spent his time in Marina del Rey. "I liked it there because of the sailing. I used to have a wooden sailboat. I have always enjoyed living in those places."

Knights soccer teams lose in west region playoffs

By BROOKE DREDGE
Staff Writer

It was one win and two losses in Brantford for Niagara College's women's indoor soccer team in the West Regionals, hosted by Hamilton's Mohawk College the weekend of March 10.

The women were just off an exceptional performance at the George Brown (College) Invitational in Toronto.

"Again, for the second year, we were one point away from championships on March 23 and 24," said coach Louis DiLorenzo on the performance. "We played well but had some bad luck. We had one injury on our top line, and a penalty that allowed Mohawk to score three power play goals. That was where we lost it and couldn't get the spark back."

"It was very close, and even though Tiffiny Cowan, defence, didn't deserve the penalty, we played very well and it was very close," he added.

DiLorenzo said that another factor that the women had to endure was playing back-to-back games. Cowan is a second-year student in the Recreational and Leisure Services program.

"They were already disappointed over the first loss, and tired and then had to go back out there and do it all over again," he commented.

"We made some adjustments for the third game because we had time to spare, so we planned our attack and went for it."

Top scorer throughout the tournament was Christine Casciani, 19, a first-year student in the Police Foundations program, scoring three goals. Those scoring one goal each was forward Janet Kamckey, 21, a second-year student in the Law and Security Administration program; Yvonne Stevens, 29, forward, a first-year student in the Police Foundations program and forward Alexis Fulop, 20, a second-year student in the Police Foundations program.

"I was happy with the team's performance and was proud of all my players. We had a good chance of going to Ontario Colleges Athletic Association Championship, and with a little more luck we could have," DiLorenzo pointed out.

"The power play is what got us. If hadn't gotten the penalty we would've won, but our game experience and practice paid off and improved," he added.

DiLorenzo did say that of all his players, he did observe one to be the most improved, in his eyes.

"Mary Thibeault, 19, a first-year student in the Paramedics program, played very well defensively throughout the tournament. She was not being afraid to challenge the other team, and that is why she got to start," he commented.

Although the Knights didn't make it to the finals, DiLorenzo said he wanted to congratulate his team on their "awesome effort all season," adding that "next year our school is going all the way!"

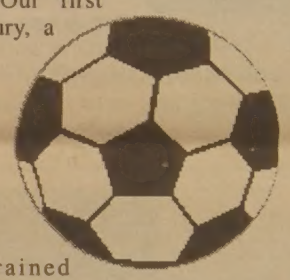
"Thank you team and, hopefully, we'll come back next year and go all the way!"

It was a win and three losses for Niagara College's men's indoor soccer team in the March 10 tournament at Redeemer College in Ancaster, Ont.

Men's head coach Frank DeChellis says his team played hard during entire regional tournament but were unable to compete against other schools without a full-time goalie.

"We didn't do as well as we could have, but we fell victim to two injuries and a substitute goalie," said coach Frank DeChellis.

"Our first injury, a



sprained ankle from a colision, happened in the first five minutes of the first game to Tim Kazokos, 19, a second-year business student, who got a ball in the face," he said.

"The boys played hard and represented this school well. The obstacles were a little too much against the teams we were playing, but we were prepared and we played hard all weekend," DeChellis added.

Top scorers over the weekend included Kevin McGowan, 20, and Nana Boating, both in the Construction Engineering Technology program.

"Nana's style wasn't at the same levels as the rest of the teams most of the season, but by the time the regionals rolled around, he was ready," DeChellis said.

Another player DeChellis wanted to acknowledge was stand-in goalie and player Mehrshad Riazati, 19, a second-year Business Administration — Operations Management (Co-op) student.

"To go in net in indoor soccer is tough and dangerous, and he went in and dared the elements," he exclaimed.

DeChellis said that it was hard to get a goalie to tryout for the team. "We never had a goalie come out, and the two that did, one got a scholarship to an American school, and the other didn't want to make the hour-long drive back and fourth," he said.

"We had a rough start at the beginning of the year, but we worked exceptionally hard all season and had an exceptional weekend at this tournament. We played well, and player-for-player no one had a better team than us, and that is more than a coach could ever ask for."

Next year, DeChellis said, "we hope to go all the way," and said that with nine returning players, "the boys are already eager to get started."

DeChellis complimented two exceptional players who played well all year. Mike Peso, 19, a first-year Motive Power Operations — Automotive student, and Nick Disanto, 20, a third-year student in the Electronic Engineering Technology program, played some of the best soccer all year, he said.

"They played smart, great, all weekend. They took their hits, were aggressive all the time and never showed signs of defeat. Don't get me wrong, we had quite a few players who played well all year round and this final tournament, but these two were relentless," he boasted.

"I am very proud of how you guys kept coming back and playing hard even with all the obstacles in front of you. You played hard and didn't let anything stand in your way. We will go all the way next year, wait and see."

Milbury fires Goring

By SCOTT ROSTS
Staff Writer
Column

His torch has been extinguished and Butch Goring has been kicked off the island.

Mike Milbury, general manager of the National Hockey League's New York Islanders, fired Goring as head coach of the club, making it the fifth time he's fired a coach in five years. Despite reports that Goring's job had been safe for the season, an embarrassing 6-0 loss to the Tampa Bay Lightning led to his demise.

Lorne Henning was given a promotion from assistant coach to interim head coach, but don't expect him to be anything more than temporary.

My question here is this: why didn't the New York Islanders hire former Buffalo Sabres coach Ted Nolan? Milbury had previously offered him a job as assistant coach, but Nolan turned it down in hopes of a head-coaching offer.

Milbury needs a coach of Nolan's capacity. On the other side, Nolan has been idle for about three years and needs a job before he is away from the game too long.

The Islanders are stocked with top prospects, such as goalie Rick DiPietro and forwards Raffi Torres and Brad Isbister. Veteran defencemen Roman Hamrlik, Kevin Haller and Gary Galley add some needed experience to a young club. With that mix, Nolan could be part of the "big splash" Milbury says he wants to make next year in the NHL.

Rumours on Long Island are saying the team has interest in free agent forwards Doug Weight (now with the Edmonton Oilers) and Jeremy Roenick (Phoenix). Before they chase these top players, it's important they find a coach who can make the younger players believe they have potential to be better than a last-place team.

Nolan seems like the man to me. A good coach like Nolan may even entice some of these free agents to give the Islanders a long look. A former Coach of the Year award winner, Nolan has been out of the NHL much too long. NHL teams should look at Nolan's talent as a coach and remember how successful he was with the Sabres. Several teams need a Nolan-ish coach.

The New York Islanders need Nolan just as much as Nolan needs the Islanders.

BEYOND OUR BORDERS

Islamic pilgrimage fulfils religious 'pillar'

By NAUMAN FAROOQ
Staff Writer

Hajj, one of the main pillars of Islam, is marked right after the season of Hajj. Muslims throughout the world celebrate Eid-Ul-Adha.

Eid-Ul-Adha is the second of the two Eids celebrated in an Islamic year.

The Hajj, or pilgrimage to Makkah, is a central duty of Islam whose origins date back to the time of Prophet Ibrahim (Peace Be Upon Him). It brings together Muslims of all races and tongues for one of life's most moving spiritual experiences.

For 14 centuries, countless millions of Muslims, men and women from all over the world, have made the pilgrimage to Makkah, the birthplace of Islam.

In carrying out this obligation, they fulfil one of the five "pillars" of Islam, or central religious duties of the believer. The 12th month of the Hijra calendar is Thul Hijjah. This is one of the four sacred months and is the month of the Hajj.

The Hajj, or Pilgrimage, as it has become known, is the time of year when Muslims from throughout the world visit the Ka'ba in Makkah, Saudi Arabia.

The Ka'ba is the first House built for the worship of the one God, Allah (Subhanahu wa ta'ala), the God of all mankind.

It was erected by Ibrahim (Abraham) and his son Isma'eel (Ishmael) (alaihim assalaam, That is, may peace be upon them). Ibrahim's (alaihis salaam, that is, may peace be upon him) faith in the Lord is well documented in the Holy Qur'an.

Ibrahim (alaihis salaam) was instructed to take his wife Hajar and son Isma'eel (alaihis salaam) to Makkah. At that time, Makkah was an unpopulated, barren desert. Ibrahim (alaihis salaam) obeyed the Allah's command and took his family to Makkah. As he left them there alone, sorrow overcame him. He knew he was obeying the Allah's command, so he supplicated and asked the Allah to preserve his loved ones, to allow the desert to bloom and provide for them, and to have swarms of people come and visit them.

The Hajj is part of the Allah's granting of Ibrahim's (alaihis salaam) supplication.

For more than 1,400 years, Muslims throughout the world visit Makkah every year to perform the Hajj and visit the House of Allah.

The first 10 days of this month are very special. Muslims spend these nights performing additional prayers, reciting the Holy Qur'an and offering prayers to Allah.

Many Muslims fast during these days.

The ninth day of Thul Hijjah is a very special day. It is the day of 'Arafa. On this day, Muslims performing Hajj gather at the mountain of 'Arafat in one of the most important parts of the Hajj. They pray, perform supplications and give thanks to Allah (Subhanahu wa ta'ala) for all the blessings bestowed upon them.

It is on this day that Adam (alaihim assalaam) and Eve (radiya Allahu anha,) that is, may Allah (Subhanahu wa ta'ala be pleased with her) met each other on earth for the first time, 200 years after being expelled from Paradise. Muslims away from the Hajj normally fast on this day.

The 10th day of the month signifies the beginning of Eid-Ul-Adha, the holiday of Hajj. Those performing the Hajj have returned from 'Arafa, and now proceed to slaughter a lamb or other suitable animal in commemoration of Ibrahim's (alaihis salaam) act of obedience to the Allah.

Ibrahim (alaihis salaam), in a divinely inspired dream, saw that he was sacrificing his oldest son, Isma'eel (alaihis salaam) for the sake of Allah (Subhanahu wa ta'ala). When he revealed this to his son, he was told to do as he was commanded. As the blade passed over Isma'eel's neck (alaihis salaam) Allah did not take the life of Isma'eel (alaihis salaam). The Allah provided a ram for the sacrifice and preserved his two faithful subjects.

Those not at Hajj also perform the sacrifice. Normally, they keep one-third of the meat from the sacrifice, distribute one-third to the needy and share one-third with their neighbours.

Eid-Ul-Adha is a four-day holiday and celebration. It commences on the 10th day of Thul Hijjah and is celebrated in a manner similar to Eid-Ul-Fitr. It starts with a special holiday prayer, performed as a congregation in the Masjid (Mosque) or other suitable place. It is a time of celebration, of visiting family and friends and of thanking Allah (Subhanahu wa ta'ala) for all the blessings bestowed upon us.

This year, Eid-Ul-Adha was celebrated on March 5. The prayer was held locally in the Welland Mosque. Donations were available to send the sacrificed meat to the poorer Muslim countries and war-affected areas. Donations varied from $50 to $250.

Niagara College's Muslim Students Association had planned to hold an Islam week from March 12 to March 16, but the event was cancelled due to the college's disapproval of the event. Niagara News will look into the matter as to why in a future issue.

Aiman Tahir, 18, Mohammad Wassim Yassine, 25, Mohammad Mao, 23, and Muhammad Tariq Ali, 18, are just some of the members of the MSA at Niagara College.

Photo by Clinton Haggart

Men's volleyball team places fourth nationally

Continued from page 1

to determine exactly what was needed to record a victory and avoid a first round upset. In the end, those tapes proved to be useless because the team did not perform as expected.

Essentially, the guys knew what to do, but were not disciplined enough to achieve a victory, says assistant coach Kerby Bentley. "The team went brain dead," he says. "We didn't show up."

The two matches Niagara played against Okanagan were intense and enthusiastic. However, the host team and its numerous supporters supplied all of the excitement. Bentley says the gymnasium was fully loaded with Laker supporters in both matches. Fan support is definitely something the Knights have learned to live without this season.

Incidentally, the disappointment from the first round defeat spilled over to the following three matches. "I don't think we played one good game," he says, adding the Knights began to fade away after losing the first game in the bronze medal match.

Going into the nationals, Cudmore and Bentley knew that things weren't going to be easy. Nevertheless, the coaches and players certainly didn't foresee them performing at such a poor level. "We knew they (Okanagan) were a good team," says Bentley.

Cudmore and Bentley did not choose to change their starting lineup between matches. The coaches stuck with the six players who had played a huge role in leading the team to their second successive national tournament. Bentley says the periodic substitutions were used to bring life on the court, yet its attempts were unsuccessful. The guys were arguing on the court and didn't communicate the way they've done the entire season. "It all fell apart," says Bentley.

The combination of inexperience, mental errors and poor passing were the main cause for Niagara's breakdown, says Bentley. There were several serving errors, missed blocks and moments of miscommunication during the whole tournament. Regardless of their two losses versus Okanagan, the Knights were victorious in their other two matches.

On Friday, Niagara faced Quebec's Cegep de Limoilou and triumphed over the No. 7 team in four games. The scores were 25-18, 25-18, 23-25 and 25-23. Juston Ross, middle, received player of the game honours for the Knights.

Following the second round victory, Niagara won their third match versus Douglas College, of British Columbia. The Knights hammered the No. 4 team in three straight games. The scores were 25-18, 25-20 and 26-24. Rookie setter Brad Harreitha, 19, was Niagara's player of the game.

Because of this convincing win over Douglas, the Knights charged into the bronze medal match on a high note. Yet Okanagan won the first game and basically took the life out of Niagara. The loss "took a big chunk of their enthusiasm," says Bentley.

Leading the way for Niagara's offence during the tournament was Graeme Gaunt. The two-year veteran, second to Brad Bell, from Red Deer College, Alta., Bell posted 76 offensive points, while Gaunt finished with 68. Other notables for the Knights were middle Shawn Barbisan, 43 points, middle Justin Ross, 33 points and power Josh Gunnell, 31 points.

In addition to Gaunt's typical offensive outburst, he was named as a first team national all-star. In other words, Gaunt has been selected as one of the country's six best college volleyball players.

Niagara College President Dan Patterson speaks with students, administrators and faculty at the President's Advisory Forum on March 12 at the Welland campus. The forum was held with first-year and second-year students of the Journalism-Print program in Room S211. Patterson spoke about his background and the future of the college. It was an opportunity for students to question the president.

Photo by Calum McNeil

ENTERTAINMENT

Propagandhi tackles political issues well

By ANDREW SOVRAN
Staff Writer

These days protest songs are hard to find.

Luckily for those who crave left-wing, anti-capitalist anthems, Propagandhi has recently released **Today's Empires, Tomorrow's Ashes**, its first album of new material in five years.

Of all the bands tackling political issues, this punk-rock trio from Winnipeg seems to have done it the best. While Rage Against The Machine may have been musical geniuses, that band's lyrics hardly ever extended beyond rhetoric. Propagandhi's songs, on the other hand, are structured like logical arguments.

The new album opens with a song about Bella Galhos, a friend of the band, who escaped from East Timor almost two decades after Indonesia invaded her homeland.

The song criticizes Western approval of, and complicity in, the genocide that took place, calling East Timor "a prison my country underwrote in paradise."

"The nail that sticks up gets hammered down," Propagandhi lead singer Chris Hannah, sings on **Today's Empires, Tomorrow's Ashes** title track. The song is an attack on capitalist society and the "screaming billboards and Disney-fied history" that go along with it.

Musically, these two songs are familiar territory for the band members, who made their bones playing punk-pop nearly 10 years ago. Most of the other songs on the album find a harder-edged Propagandhi retreating from the melodic tones that won them an audience.

Do not be dismayed, though. It's damn good stuff.

F—- the Border, a Propagandhi stage favourite, sounds like something straight out of the hardcore-punk heyday of the early 1980s. In the song, Hannah sympathizes with an illegal alien from Mexico.

"I stand not by my country, but by people of the whole f—-ing world."

While defending the immigrant, he rails against big business profiting from cheap labour in the Third World.

Chris Hannah, lead singer of Propagandhi, plays for the audience at a concert.

Submitted photo

"It's our culture and consumption which makes her life unbearable."

Other hard-hitting highlights on the album include *Ladies' Night in Loserville*, and *Bulls—- Politicians*. In the latter song, Hannah screams about elected officials "who bow and curtsy to the seats of power."

"I can't believe we're still content to shuffle the same old deck of kings and queens and faux-democracies," he later sings.

Back to the Motor League is Propagandhi's rant against the music industry and the tragedy of kids "brought up on Korn, Eminems and Bizkits."

"Take back your Amy Grant moshcrews and your fair-weather politics."

Hannah also takes aim on an unlikely source: punk rock.

"Who cares about your stupid scenes, your sh—— 'zines, the strawmen you build up to burn," he yells, later stating he'd "rather highlight Trip-Tix than listen to your bulls—-."

Musically, *Back to the Motor League* may be the finest song Propagandhi has ever recorded.

It's the perfect balance between the pop hooks that filled the band's earlier albums and the more hardcore stuff it's leaning towards these days.

Reality television has hit Internet full speed

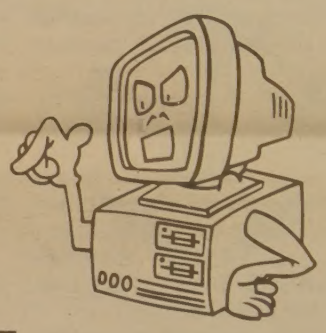
By STEPHEN D'ORAZIO
Staff Writer

Reality TV has hit the Internet.

U8TV.com, which started on Jan. 15, is Canada's first Internet TV channel with eight "lofters" living in a downtown Toronto residence.

The eight living in this loft are under 24-hour surveillance so the world can watch them live, interact and host daily programs dealing with everything from entertainment to information programming.

In its first week, U8TV.com had over one million page views with over 100,000 being unique visitors.



Lili Shalev, co-founder and president of U8TV.com, says, "One million page views represents a whole lot of virtual visitors to check out a Toronto loft."

Lofters Mathieu, Arisa, Valery, Kalen, Jennifer, David, Sandy and Tre were chosen from hundreds of applicants. Round two of U8TV is on its way, so if you are between the ages of 19 and 34 you could be next.

Chris Larsen, vice-president of media sales and services for Engage Canada, U8TV.com's advertising network, says, "We have been involved in the launch of many entertainment sites over the past few years, but none have experience the instant success U8TV.com has."

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COLLEGE HAPPENINGS

SAC election draws poor student interest

By BILL STEPHENSON
Staff Writer

It was an election call, but there will be no votes counted.

For the first time in memory at Niagara College, all Student Administrative Council (SAC) executive members have been acclaimed at the three campuses in Welland, Niagara Falls and St. Catharines.

"I wish there had been more student involvement," says Ryan McLaughlin, the SAC president at the Welland campus. "Democracy only works if students participate."

McLaughlin says he is "disappointed at the apathy of the student body." However, he says, the apathy should not reflect on the success of SAC's year.

"It could have a lot to do with what's going on at the school at the time." As to why more students did not participate in the election, McLaughlin says, "I honestly don't know."

Advertisements concerning the SAC election appeared in the *Niagara News*, on college radio and on bulletin boards throughout the campus.

Only one student indicated they wanted to be on each SAC position. There can't be an election when there is only one candidate.

SAC even advertised the fact these are paid positions. SAC members are paid $80 a week, providing they work on SAC activities for 10 hours.

McLaughlin says he put in about 10 to 12 hours a week on SAC activities.

"We tried everything," says Cindy Blanchard, SAC's finance administrator, as she handed over the list of winners. Here they are:

Welland campus: Jeff Dutcher, 21, president, (Interactive Multimedia (Post-graduate), is SAC's vice-president of internal affairs); Karen Brown, vice-president internal affairs, a first-year Journalism-Print program student; and Christopher Newman, vice-president, public relations, a first-year Journalism-Print program student.

Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake: Brodie Mosher, 23, president, from the Business Administration - Accounting program; David Young, vice-president internal affairs, a first year from the Business Administration program; and Eduardo Resendiz, vice-president, public relations, from the International Business program.

Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls: Reginal Osborne, president from the Hotel and Restaurant Management program; Glenn McFarlane, vice-president of internal affairs, from the Culinary Management program; and Bryan Cleaver, vice-president, public relations, from the Culinary Management program.

The next executives begin their jobs May 1.

Administrator's goal to bring students together

Continued from page 13

"We attract students to the college who want to work in international business and in a global environment. Within the academic programs we have job sites and some very exciting projects." Two marketing program students are going to South Africa; three students are going to Ecuador for ecosystems restoration. Students have also gone to India and Argentina.

Niagara College also recruits to students in the English as a Second Language program in addition to numerous post-secondary programs.

The main goal is to "give students a chance to sit beside and work beside students from other countries." She jokes, "We (Niagara College) can't fly all of you around the world so if we can bring the world to you and that's our goal that has been matched. My personal goal is that I want every graduate at our college to graduate with a friend from somewhere else and I don't mean Thorold."

As well, for someone to peer tutor a person from China, Japan or anywhere else in the world is "exactly" Casson's goal. "How else can you start to look at the world, when your world is as contained as it is?" she questions.

Casson has also travelled to places in Southeast Asia such as Thailand, Hong Kong, Indonesia and to Mauritius, a country in the Indian Ocean, off the eastern coast of Madagascar. In the Western Hemisphere, the Caribbean has been on her itinerary.

Casson says one of the key factors of working internationally is demonstrating the culture and values of Canada without imposing them. In a country with cultures that permit multiple wives, for example, she finds the existence and evolution of these cultures and tradition "very interesting."

"I like that teaching-learning environment, as that becomes an interesting experience. It creates experience that helps people. Why I love to work internationally is that I learn much more than I teach or demonstrate. It rounds me out in a way that would be impossible without those living experiences."

Afterwards, Casson says, "When I return, they can't help but permeate into my professional life and my work with students."

These experiences also extend into family. She has a nephew teaching in China, who also received his certification in scuba diving in Thailand. She has a niece who helped build a school in Kenya.

For Niagara College, taking an international issue and bringing the issue home, such as the Adopt-A-Minefield Committee, Casson says, "I am so proud of the students at this college and the staff who have initiated this. I am very proud they have taken on this responsibility. Here are busy students, who are thinking beyond their own borders into the needs of a global community."

Now as Niagara College's vice-president of enterprise and student services, she works with the students, particularly the Student Administrative Council, which is an aspect Casson "doesn't do enough of."

The departments Casson heads are Student Services including the Aboriginal office, Counselling office and Centre for Students with Disabilities, peer tutors, Continuing Education and distance learning, enrolment and registration services, international education development and Ventures — Employment and Training Services.

On a closing note, Casson says around the world everybody will know Niagara's name, regardless of what language is used.

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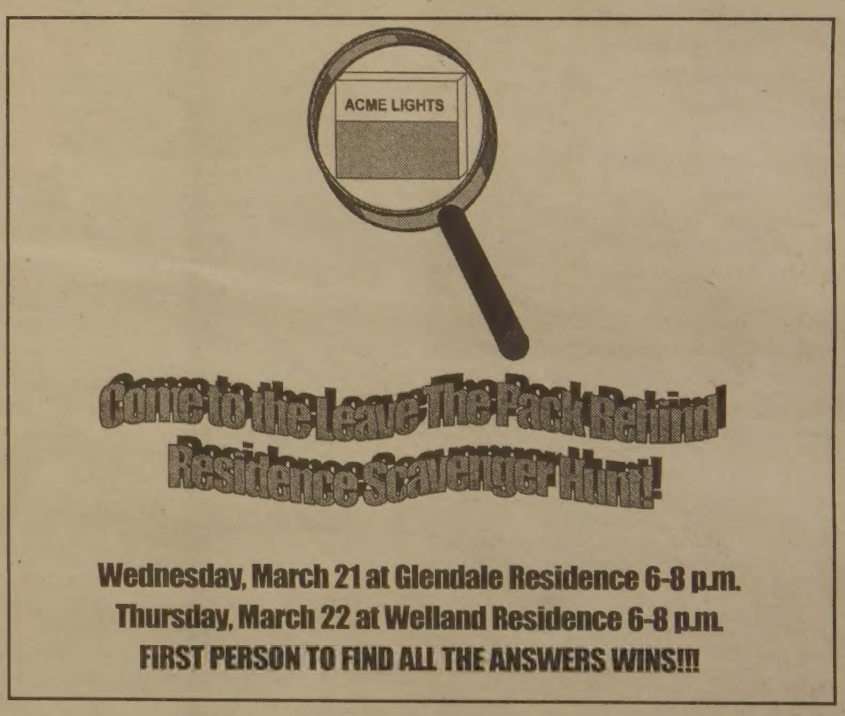
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Created by: Catherine Leblanc & Erika Steibelt, Queen's University

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Niagara College goes international

Experiencing foods from different cultures was a learning experience for Cory, 3, while attending International Day at the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls with his aunt Shannon Jodoin, 19, a second-year Culinary Management program student from St. Catharines.

Photo by Laura T. Ricciuto

Preparing an apple and rice delicacy at the Chinese booth at International Day is Jie Shen, 22, a Hotel Restaurant and Management program student, from Shanghai, China.

Photo by Laura T. Ricciuto

Two Hotel Restaurant and Management program students, Sunny Bawa; 23, of India, and Qinyi Ji, 20, from Shanghai, China, exchange cultural cuisine while at Niagara College's International Day.

Photo by Laura T. Ricciuto

Dan Su, 20, English as a Second Language student at the Welland campus, shows her Chinese art skills.

Photo by Nauman Farooq

Nancy Marsman, right, stands with one of her students on International Day.

Photo by Nauman Farooq

English as a Second Language students from Mexico pose at their display at the Welland campus on International Day on March 13.

Photo by Nauman Farooq

Niagara College President Dan Patterson is shown in some lighter moments during his Trade Canada visit to China.

Submitted photos